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An Update on Curriculum Reform: Case Study of CFANS Undergraduate Program Redesign 2011

Ward E. Nefstead, Assoc. Professor & Extension Economist, Dept of Applied Economics, U. Of Minnesota

Objectives:

1. Reassess the progress in Undergraduate Curriculum Reform.
2. Bring viewers up to date on recent events in 2011.
3. Assess procedure used.
4. Compare and contrast to other undergraduate curriculum redesign efforts.
5. Suggest future directions in strategic focus and implementation.

Methodology:

1. Use case study methods to report and analyze current efforts.
2. Provide suggestions on missing steps.
3. Report challenges in alignment of efforts/focus on curricular areas.

References:

1. Connor, Larry. Future Directions for Ag. Economics Curricula: Faculty & Administrative Perspectives, NACTA Journal., June 1994.
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Examples of Current Curricula Efforts

1. Policy on Experiential Education-course assessments.

CFANS Interdisciplinary Course Goals and Guidelines
Approved at the meeting of the Undergraduate Policy Review Committee 12/16/11

2. Overall requirement- internship or high quality experiential course now in effect.

The purpose of the CFANS interdisciplinary course requirement is to enhance the ability of CFANS students

3. Integration of Research and Outreach Centers in instruction of courses.

National Standards of Practice for Experiential Learning

4. New Majors Created-Sustainable/local Food Production; Tourism;

This is the [final reminder to register](#) for our 4th annual CFANS undergraduate education event – *"Engaging the Vision: In our Classrooms and our Communities"*

Key Events:

1. Task forces have reported findings
2. Assessment of current efforts: Majors/minimum size, etc
Not moving forward.
3. Requirement for curricula Flexibility- prerequisites, elective credits equal to 30 credits. Elimination of Rhetoric and general education requirements being used.
4. Recent campus meeting (2/12) focused on local food/organic

Instructional Requirements:

1. Two high-impact experiential learning activities for each student.
2. 30 credits of free electives w. some exceptions
3. Critical examination of majors w. less than 50 students.
4. Creation of new majors-local foods/tourism
5. Inclusion of faculty & students in Research & Outreach Centers for undergraduate teaching enrichment.
6. Development of critical student skills in Leadership, Problem-Solving, Multi-cultural and Communication.

1. Work is progressing
2. Some aspects are being implemented\

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