

LEAP Action Summary

Languages & Literatures Lecture Series

LEAP Workshop Year: 2011-2012

For more information, contact:
Elena Levy-Navarro

Action Dates: 2011-2012

Marilyn Durham
Elena Levy-Navarro
Pat Moran
Janine Tobeck

General Goal:

Our overarching goal is to raise awareness among our faculty of LEAP's emphasis on the value of liberal education as a means to capitalize on our existing commitment to those values. We wanted to encourage faculty to clarify these values more deliberately in all their classes.

Planned Actions:

1. **Inform faculty of LEAP principles** and ELOs and ask them to place them on their syllabus and discuss with students. Discuss the way in which LEAP principles can be used in the classroom, including in the curriculum. Discuss the value of using the ELOs in syllabus. Encourage the faculty to discuss these principles with their students, especially in general education courses like 101, 102, and 390.
2. **Update and upgrade departmental website** to improve information exchange between faculty, staff, and students and to use LEAP materials to facilitate this communication. This goal is intended not simply to improve the accessibility of information about the department, but to increase the visibility of how liberal education links students current and past on a continuum of lifelong learning and success.
3. Reshape the **faculty scholarly workshops** so as to underscore LEAP elements.

Deliverables, Completed Actions:

1. **Inform faculty of LEAP principles.**
 - February 2012 department meeting: Distributed Cronon's essay, "Only Connect. . . The Goals of a Liberal Education" to all faculty in advance of the meeting. Facilitated discussion of the essay, which was focused on the importance of communicating the value of a liberal education for our students, their families, and the public at large.
 - Brainstormed ideas in the February 2012 department meeting. Informed our colleagues about the ELOs and discussed ways in which they could be incorporated into the classroom. Received assurances from many that

they would facilitate an intentional discussion in their classrooms.
Scheduled a follow-up discussion for the final departmental meeting of the year – May 2012.

2. Update and upgrade departmental website.

- Hired a student assistant to coordinate and execute website updates. L&S has formed a committee that is evaluating the school's web interface and implementing revisions. Our student assistant is keeping abreast of these developments (we secured his membership on the L & S committee) and will keep us posted as we are able to continue our plans. He has already collected information and published the approved information updates, including faculty profile information, major program information, and requirement checklists. He has also started a departmental Facebook, moderated by several faculty members but focused more exclusively on student-generated information. Both of these efforts aim to engage students outside the classroom and increase their buy-in to departmental learning objectives.

3. Reshape the *faculty scholarly workshops* so as to underscore LEAP elements.

- A number of events have been organized, and one has been run, including our lunch series, "Current Events from a Humanities Perspective."

Notes:

All of these laudable goals are seriously challenged by the already heavy work load of our faculty. So an obvious barrier to successfully implementing our action plan is lack of faculty buy-in which we have already made a start on improving by raising awareness over the past semester, continuing our outreach during the summer via email surveys and questionnaires, organizing a session at our annual faculty retreat which specifically focuses on LEAP values and goals and how to transparently implement them in our curriculum, and actively fostering a conversation among ourselves on ways to become more intentional facilitators of liberal education.