

Main Street Minutes

1 July 2010

Bruce Benson

Present: Steve McKelvey, Chair; Paula Carlson; Roz Eaton-Neeb; Mary Emery; Bruce Dalgaard; Samantha Sickbert; Janice Roberts; Nathan Soland; Bruce Benson

Approval of minutes: with correction of a spelling typo, approved.

Comments from the Chair: Steve described his committee leadership style, explaining that he will likely start discussions with some of his own thoughts and opinions, welcome disagreements, facilitate conversation, then become just one more member of the committee as discussion proceeds.

Reports on resources: (all resources currently posted on Moodle)

- Steve: U of IL, Champaign Urbana, good website, “Univeristy 101” program introduces students to Career Services. Includes student, faculty, and facilitator perspectives. Includes advising about majors. Columbia College, SC critiques attempts like ours, but not with much usefulness for our work.
- Janice: Middlebury. Sophomore shadowing program looks interesting. Similarities exist with Carleton, Luther, Gettysburg. Could we do the same? Probably, says Nathan. Bruce D says that ACM network discussed this idea positively.
- Bruce D: Liberal Arts Career Network has much information. It can be shared on Moodle, or Kirsten Cahoon can report at an upcoming meeting. Middlebury is moving away from a career program to experiential learning. Atlantic essay suggests that current employment/un-employment climatge is likely to persist.
- Nathan: Started with CASE. They cited three schools doing it well. Wesleyan has a winter break experience with alums, and follows a four year time-line. Tufts has a good networking tool for students to connect with alums. They have edited their network site to include only those alums who express interest. U of Iowa medical school also good with alum networking. And Carleton is perhaps farthest along with this process; Alumni/Advancement/Career programs have been brought together. SUNY Buffalo has an entertaining video idea for alums to share their work with students. St. Olaf surveys show a *wide* spread of opinion from alums.
- Mary: Smith guaranteed internship program; provide stipends for qualifying interships, and a loan program designed to enable students to accept lower paying interships. St. John Fisher, something like a guaranteed job offer within six months of graduation. Several steps necessary for students to qualify. Albion, lots of steps required for students to qualify for a guaranteed job offer after graduation. Wake Forest worth our attention.
- Roz: St. John’s/St. Ben’s, four year program called ATLAS we should look at. A recent book has prompted thinking about the place of student engagement in student health. Increased intentionality improves engagement. Planning is important, and students are not great planners of their own higher-ed. Mentoring

is important. Individuation: students value individuation while institutions deal with them as a group. Possible solution: become facilitator institutions in educational covenants with students. On Campus journal emphasizes helping students thrive, not just survive.

- Paula: Highlight of survey data. Bucknell has brought together career services and alumni. They have a very extensive recent grad survey of employment in formation categorized by major. Impressive data with good information for seeing possibilities for all majors.
- Samantha: Wagner College Plan connects alums, parents and students. Emphasizes self-inquiry, reflection, and advising for campus groups and international study. CNN report examined recent grad employment trends. Internships, volunteer work, and classes all important to employers.

Discussion: We already do a lot of these good things. How do we get students to take advantage of them? Samantha suggested that it was a class that got her connected with the CEL.

Faculty support for CEL is crucial because students listen to faculty.

Hard to reach First Year students.

Best CEL programs have involved faculty participation.

2010 statistics will likely show lower participation in CEL for graduating class.

Attentiveness to first generation students is important. But also attention to students whose own life aspirations are very different from their parents'. In both cases, students have parents who are hard-pressed to advise them.

Looking ahead: How do we move from status quo to crafting a concrete proposal for St. Olaf? Do we need a set of objectives?

How do we invite community participation?

Do we bring presenters from other institutions? In September? Nathan Hatch, maybe, or Someone from Carleton?

Send out a short list of possible objectives for community response? We need a focus for both presenting a vision and hearing hopes and anxieties from our faculty.

Make this committee's work part of opening faculty meeting?

How do we include staff, alums, parents, students?

Plan: meet again in about two weeks (check your email for date). Steve will check on funding for bringing in a speaker. A sub-committee will craft a preliminary list of objectives. That sub-committee will include Nathan, Roz, Paula, and Samantha.