University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

Liberal education reform efforts have identified integrative learning as an important missing element in our Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcomes and in our liberal education requirements. The University Liberal Education Committee (ULEC) has recommended that Integrative Learning become a central part of liberal education reform. Therefore, the Academic Policies Committee (APC) recommends the addition of an Integrative Learning Goal and Outcome to the list of Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcomes (approved 12/07 and 4/09 respectively).

Integrative teaching and learning comes in many varieties: connecting skills and knowledge from multiple sources and experiences; applying theory to practice in various settings; utilizing diverse and even contradictory points of view; understanding issues and positions contextually integrative experiences often occur as learners address real-world problems, unscripted and sufficiently broad to require multiple areas of knowledge and multiple modes of inquiry, offering multiple solutions and benefiting from multiple perspectives.

On 12/15/11, the University Liberal Education Committee approved the following recommendation: 
(1) a sixth Learning Goal: “Integrative Learning”
(2) its associated Outcome: “Synthesize and transfer learning to new, complex situations within and beyond campus”

Please note that the outcome was derived from AAC&U’s definition of Integrative Learning and was suggested by the Director of Assessment.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Integrative Learning is both a pedagogical principle and a skill with an associated learning outcome.
   a. As indicated by the introductory sentences on the UW Eau Claire Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcomes table, Integrative learning is a pedagogical approach that crosses all the liberal education goals.

b. Integrative Learning is a recognized skill that is important to liberal education reform. The AAC&U rubric includes five performance attributes for learner assessment:
   i. Connections to Experience: Connects relevant experience and academic knowledge
   ii. Connections to Discipline: Sees (makes) connections across disciplines, perspectives
   iii. Transfer: Adapts and applies skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations
   iv. Integrated Communication
   v. Reflection and Self-Assessment: Demonstrates a developing sense of self as a learner, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts (may be evident in self-assessment, reflective, or creative work)
2. The word “skill” needs to be added below the Integrative Learning goal to make it consistent with the other Liberal education Learning Goals and to identify its goal category.

3. The words “Students will” needs to be added to the Integrative Learning Outcome to make it consistent with the other Liberal Education Learning Outcomes.

4. The introductory sentence “All UW-Eau Claire students will develop and demonstrate integrative learning across the Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcome.” should be removed from this document to prevent confusion between integrative learning as a pedagogical principle and a skill.

Pros of Recommendation:

Integrative Learning is recognized as a critical skill by AAC&U and some of UWEC’s industry partners. Adopting Integrative Learning as one of our Liberal Education Learning Goals further aligns the Liberal Education Learning Goals with our Centennial Plan.

Cons of Recommendation:

Some confusion might continue to exist related to Integrative Learning as pedagogical approach to designing curriculum versus Integrative Learning as a skill that can be assessed. This confusion might exist even after removing the introductory sentence.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

APC recommends that the UW Eau Claire Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcomes table be amended to include the Integrative Learning liberal education learning goal and outcome. APC further recommends that the fourth sentence of introductory text (which references integrative learning as a pedagogical principle that crosses all Liberal Education Learning Goals) be removed.
The Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of __9__ for to __0__ against on ___ January 31, 2012

Recommends that
the UW Eau Claire Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcomes table be amended as follows:

1. Sentence 4, which reads “All UW-Eau Claire students will develop and demonstrate integrative learning across the Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcome.” be deleted.
2. “Integrative Learning (skill)” be added as a Liberal Education Learning Goal.
3. “Students will synthesize and transfer learning to new, complex situations within and beyond campus.” be added as a Liberal Education Learning Outcome.

UW Eau Claire Liberal Education Learning Goals and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal Education Learning Goals</th>
<th>Liberal Education Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Knowledge of Human Culture and the Natural World (knowledge)</td>
<td>1. Students will develop a depth of knowledge about human culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Creative and Critical Thinking (skill)</td>
<td>1. Students will develop and use creative thinking skills in academic and social contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Effective Communication (skill)</td>
<td>1. Students will develop and use critical thinking skills in academic and social contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Individual and Social Responsibility (value)</td>
<td>1. Students will develop skills and values for ethical reasoning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Respect for Diversity Among People (value)</td>
<td>1. Students will develop knowledge for living in a pluralistic society and a globally interdependent world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Integrative Learning (skill)</td>
<td>1. Students will synthesize and transfer learning to new, complex situations within and beyond campus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implementation Date: Immediate

Signed: ________________________________
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office