

Meeting Wednesday, July 22, 2011

Linda LeMura

Don Maldari

Deb Cady Melzer

Topic of discussion: the LEAD overseas service-learning project.

- Identification of problematic issues
  - Funding
    - The project's funding has evolved over the years:
      - From 2002 to 2007 it received no funding from the College. All expenses were paid through donations raised by Don and the students. Fundraising took a great deal of Don's time and energy.
    - In 2009 Don met with Linda and Shawn Ward. Correspondence regarding that meeting are attached.
      - Shawn indicated that the Student Development division funded half of Campus Ministry's service projects abroad. He offered full support to the LEAD service-learning project but would not commit funds.
      - Linda promised to contribute funds to the project. She gave \$2000 for the 2009 trip.
      - In 2010 Linda pledged \$10,000 for the 2011 trip; Deb contributed \$1000 and \$2000 came from the Michele Ruggieri Fund. These funds covered half the expenses of the project for 20 people.
    - The Michele Ruggieri endowment was established in 2010 to fund service-learning projects. It is under the auspices of the provost.
    - Deb indicated that Campus Ministry's overseas service projects are now allocated \$5000 and the rest comes from contingency funds and other budget lines.
    - Linda, Don and Deb decided
      - funding service projects and service-learning projects from contingency funds and begging from various budget lines is not a desirable procedure;
      - a formal procedure of distributing funds needs to be established;
      - the "funding pot" should be equitably divided for service and service-learning projects.
        - What exactly that pot consists of needs clarification
  - Instructors and chaperons
    - There is no policy regarding compensation to instructors or chaperons on the LEAD overseas service-learning project.
      - Patty Schmidt received funds from the Sanzone Center once and was paid as a summer instructor once. She contributed those funds to cover the cost of the trip.
      - For the 2011-12 academic year the dean gave Don Maldari credit for teaching rel 100 (Catholic Theological Reflection on Service) three times during the fall semesters and in Dominica; there had previously been no compensation for teaching these courses.

- Linda stated that how service-learning “counts” for tenure and promotion decisions needs clarification.
  - What steps are planned to do so? AARP was mentioned.
- Will the College pay the expenses of instructors and chaperons?
  - These costs were covered by donations and, in 2011, partly through the College’s funding.
- Organization
  - A new director of service-learning and one for global studies will be hired for the fall 2011. It is expected that
    - they will help with the organization of the project, details to be determined;
    - they will participate in deciding how the “funding pot” will be divided.
- The value of service-learning trips
  - The LEAD project to Dominica
    - promotes connections between different cultures;
    - broadens the cultural horizons of Le Moyne students and of people in Dominica who, because of the political, geographical and economic situation of the island, tend to be isolated;
    - engages students in academic reflection on their experience through engaging in conversation with theologians and other intellectuals;
    - strongly promotes the College’s mission.
  - Might the trip be enhanced by extending participation to other students?
    - An example is a biology or sociology class
      - the two projects could be interdisciplinary or simply coterminous.
    - Some questions:
      - Would funding be different?
      - Would housing and lifestyle be different?
      - Responsibility for student behavior
        - I know the LEAD students very well and select those who come from those who apply based on their applications and my judgment of how they will behave and profit from the experience.
        - Anyone can sign up for a course; behavior on overseas trips has been problematic in the past, including to Dominica when I took non-LEAD learning community students.

The above issues will be addresses in such a way that they will facilitate the ~~2012~~ LEAD trip.