

## Engaged Learning and Collaboration Strategic Planning Implementation Team

### Annual ESU Conference and Theme for Academic Year Subgroup

Subgroup Members: Irina Khusid, Jeffrey Hotz, Kathy Brunkard, Patti Kashner, Peter Hawkes, Miguel Barbosa, Nurun Begum, Jessica Ras

Meetings: 4/6 Present Irina Khusid, Kathy Brunkard, Patti Kashner, Peter Hawkes, Miguel Barbosa, Jessica Ras

Meetings: 4/15 Irina Khusid, Jeffrey Hotz, Kathy Brunkard, Patti Kashner, Peter Hawkes, Miguel Barbosa

### General Discussion:

- A. We began by discussing the larger issue of the conference/theme by looking at other universities and colleges that have theme based discussions for the year. We considered the difference between having a theme for a conference and having a common reading. We discussed a number of different options: a conference theme without having a common reading; a common reading without a theme; or a conference theme that could have a common reading or set of suggested readings.
- B. We discussed some of the scheduling factors, particularly whether the conference should be held during class time or outside of class time. We considered the pluses and minuses of this.
- C. We talked about awards that we could give students at this event.
- D. We discussed generally how each college could choose the theme each year in succession—this way, every college would have an opportunity to be involved.
- E. We talked about how a theme should be looked out in a larger spectrum: past, present, and future. This allows for a wider ranging discussion. We also talked about how themes should be in a global context, too.

### Resolutions:

- A. We decided to have a theme based approach that could have a common reading or set of readings attached to it. The theme would be broad enough to invite multiple disciplinary involvement. We developed a list of seven potential themes:
  - 1. Violence Against Women and Violence in Relationships—Past, Present, and Future Perspectives
  - 2. Towards Tolerance: Examining and Overcoming Racial, Ethnic, and Other Social Divisions
  - 3. “You are What You Eat”: Food and Health in the Age of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Fast Food
  - 4. What Does It Mean to Be College Educated?; Or, Assessing 120 Credits of Gen. Ed., a Major, and Minor
  - 5. Going Broke?: Debts—Here and Abroad—and Choices

6. Mutual Influences?: The Role of the United States on the World and the Impact of the Global Community on the U.S.
7. Technology is Changing Us!: Prospects and Problems

B. We decided to send out a survey to students, faculty, and staff about these general topics, asking for feedback as to which of these seven topics they might like the best. We will use Survey Monkey.

C. We decided a tentative structure for the conference

- Each night, attendees can choose to attend several different presentations: papers & posters
- Students will be presenting papers written specifically for the conference. Other students will create posters that will be displayed throughout and judged by the panel for cash prizes.
- Each year, a different school selects a different theme for that academic year. Throughout the year, events are created to focus on the theme and the school sets aside money to fund such programs
- Thursday Night (Keynote Speech)
- Friday during the day: a general fair / general information)
- Friday night: Students' multimedia presentations on the theme in a large conference room—this might be fun
- Saturday: Concurrent student panels on the theme: morning, afternoon, through late afternoon
- Perhaps another larger session / maybe with a lunch / a second guest speaker or words from faculty
- A Closing Large Session : Final Remarks session

D. We discussed how for any of these themes above, we would need to find a suggested reading or suggested readings. These would be disseminated to the first-year students and announced on campus. It would also be on the website, perhaps on one of panels on the front page.