S & M Brown Bag

5/6/14

Present: John Caraher, Bridget Gourley, Dan Gurnon, Jacob Hale, Mary Kertzman, Rich Martoglio, Jeane Pope, Pam Propsom, Jackie Roberts, Michael Roberts, Fred Soster, Christina Wagner

We ragged on Michio Kaku’s Ubben talk last night (except for Jeane, who appreciated his jokes).

“Big Ideas” course. Pam updated folks on the Working Group. Some individuals and/or departments have excitement about a “Big Ideas” gen ed course; some are more wait and see (would need to know more, unsure about logistics). Trial in 15-16 academic year, but would it be one section that people do *gratis* or 5 sections where faculty would rotate through like the real course? Workshop in the fall with people from other schools who might have tried something like this (interdisciplinary, team-taught gen ed SM course) so that we could learn from their experiences. But concurrently others could also be making changes to their existing Intro courses.

Use Brown Bag as an informal forum where people could present examples of teaching SM skills and exercises that reinforce them in our courses. Faculty could keep track of what they’re doing in their classes so that we have a record, data for grant applications and possible publications. Could put these on the *WISER* website.

Pam can share with DePauw’s SM faculty where we are with the SM skills (our revisions to the TOSLS skills: compressing graphing one, adding observation one) so they can see what they are.

It helps if we provide meeting dates far in advance for the evening gatherings so people can reserve them.

Make sure we communicate with faculty in other divisions about what we’re doing, be transparent.

Advising. New student registration now takes place during orientation, so we have more of an opportunity to do better advising. Could the division create a document for first-year students and their advisors about the value of SM courses, purpose of them; also about advising science majors (get away from advisors who tell them “you shouldn’t take 2 SM courses at the same time”). Talk with Dave Berque about this (sounds like with the new system new students will get a schedule BEFORE they meet individually with their faculty advisor?). Maybe start a document on Google Docs that all in the SM division could contribute to. How do students get enrolled in First-Year seminars? We want students who have a preference for science courses to actually get into science FYS courses.

May 28 workshop with Ed Prather.