Spring 2022 Faculty Inquiry Group Report

Undergraduate Research at Community Colleges

Participants:

- Claire Dannenbaum
- Rick Glover
- Andrea Goering
- Stacey Kiser (organizer)
- Erika Masaki
- Edgar Rosas Alquicira
- Ce Rosenow
- Jim Salt

Goals:

We are a group interested in furthering undergraduate research across the whole campus at Lane. We read “Undergraduate Research at Community Colleges” by Nancy Hensel in order to look for national examples and get ideas for reducing barriers at Lane.

Outcomes and Products:

Outcomes from reading:

We quickly ascertained that community college faculty were not the target audience for this book. While we appreciated the examples, many included large, systemic structure and finances that are out of our agency. We urge Lane managers interested in undergraduate research and how to make it more systemic to read the book (we have an extra copy).

Examples:
The CUNY system includes 2Y and 4Y schools and has a tenure and promotion system that rewards research. The system budgets for competitive research awards.

States with boards of regents (Tennessee) or state-wide boards of education (Oklahoma) have created support for undergraduate research at community college systems.

Tulsa Community College created an endowed chair for undergraduate research.

Strengths and Weaknesses here at Lane:
Strengths -

1. The current **Institutional Level Outcomes** can best be met by undergraduate research defined broadly across all disciplines.
2. The implementation of the **Learning Outcomes Assessment** means programs may be looking for better ways to meet the Institutional Level Outcomes and we can leverage this to help more faculty implement undergraduate research.
3. Undergraduate research dovetails with the existing Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
4. The office suite in Building 16 (room 156) was designated in AY 21/22 for the Titan Scholars programs (the collective name for the Undergraduate Research, Honors Program, and PTK Honor Society)
5. Small student research poster sessions have been held since 2015, and returned in Spring 2022 in a hybrid format.
6. We have established a working relationship with the planning committee for the University of Oregon's Undergraduate Research Symposium. 1-6 Lane students have presented in at least three years of UO symposia.
7. In 2020 a faculty coordinator release time was established for Undergraduate Research.

Weaknesses -

1. No courses are currently offered for discipline-specific research skills. LIB 127 offers general library research skills for a general audience.
2. Independent Study flexible course credit structure exists, but faculty do not receive any compensation (either in pay or teaching load credit).
3. Release time was reduced for the coordinator of undergraduate research and the combined Honors Program and PTK Honor Society for AY 22/23.
4. Currently no administrative support is provided. A new 0.49 position is proposed in a new org chart for Titan Scholars.
5. Technology support isn't clear across campus this year, but it is especially opaque in support of Titan Scholars. No computers are in the new space. The DTEN device that was requested to host hybrid activities has not been purchased.

Opportunities -

1. Undergraduate research is considered a High-Impact Practice in support of academic success: https://www.aacu.org/trending-topics/high-impact
2. Undergraduate research supports critical thinking across disciplines. It encourages interdisciplinary thinking and fosters collaboration amongst students and with faculty.
3. Opportunities for student research can support diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating a supportive environment for underrepresented students.
4. Undergraduate research at Lane supports LCC students' transitions to other institutions, especially UO and OSU (both of which have robust undergraduate research programs).
5. Research activities allow students to develop practical skills used across disciplines, in the workplace, and in support of civic participation and democracy.

Products:

Erika Masaki created this argument for why Lane should support undergraduate research across campus.

Erika Masaki and **Jim Salt** developed and are in the process of analyzing a survey of Lane faculty on undergraduate research.

Many members of this FIG are committed to expanding the current offerings of undergraduate research next year. To this goal, we intend to host a **workshop during Fall 2022 Inservice** to help interested faculty design undergraduate research projects in their disciplines. We will plan this during the summer.

Finally, moving forward we propose the formation of a steering committee for undergraduate research at LCC. Stacey Kiser will work with the new faculty advisor for the Honors Program and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society to discuss the details of a separate steering committee for undergraduate research vs a larger steering committee for the Titan Scholars (encompassing all three areas of research).