Summary of CUR Central Regional Workshop at Truman State University
November 18, 2008

On October 24-26, 2008, Steven Deckelman, Amanda Little, Richard Tafalla and Robert Ziedel attended the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), CUR Central Regional Workshop held at Truman State University. Mitch Malachowski and Jeff Osborn hosted the workshop and Beth Cunningham from Illinois Wesleyan University acted as our facilitator. This NSF funded workshop was designed to help campuses institutionalize undergraduate research (UR). This was an intensive training workshop that covered topics of creating UR culture, sustaining UR, promoting UR and assessing UR impact. Team members developed a vision statement and strategized about goals and short, mid and long-term objectives. These are outlined below. Participation in this workshop includes support from CUR and a network of campuses as well as visits from CUR facilitators on campus. We intend to seek formal recognition of a committee on campus that will continue the work of institutionalizing UR. That application is attached.

**Mission:** Promote undergraduate student research, scholarship, and creative activity as a significant active learning pedagogy.

This broadly-defined undergraduate student research, scholarship, and creative activity will have an applied focus that enhances society. The campus will provide support and resources for faculty to integrate collaborative research, scholarship, and creative activity into the curriculum, in order to facilitate student development as innovative, resourceful, independent thinkers throughout their polytechnic college experience.

**ACTION PLAN**

**Short-term:** Getting undergraduate research recognized as important to Stout and integrated into the curriculum:
1. Establish a committee of Faculty Senate
2. Meet with CORE to get vision approved – decide on presentations.
3. Meet with SSA – articulate benefits to students
4. Meet with faculty senate / academic staff
5. Professional development week presentation: (scheduled for Jan 13, 2009)
6. Redefine professional development grants for curricular transformation (for 1-2 years)
7. Define assessment tools
8. Discuss with Provost
9. Incorporate UR in strategic plan.

**Benchmarks:** # of posters, # of student research grants, approval of mission/vision statements

**Mid-term:** Increased resources (dollars) for implementation
1. Dollars for re-inventing general education / introductory courses to include research component
2. Dollars for professional development workshops
3. Dollars for student stipends (competitive)

   **Benchmarks:** $ amounts, # of professional development teacher-scholar workshops, 
   # of courses surveyed that self-identify as including an authentic research component, 
   implementation of student stipend program

**Long-term:** Structural revisions
1. Every graduating senior have a true research experience in their curriculum.
2. Every freshman have a research experience (via RI designation).
3. Establish an Office of Undergraduate Research
4. Generate a more scholarly atmosphere on campus: paradigm shift.