On January 19, 2011, undergraduate research leaders gathered on campus for a planning session to discuss next steps to make undergraduate research a universal experience at UW-Stout. Following are the results of their work.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LEADERS
PLANNING SESSION

Institutionalizing Research at UW-Stout

Ten undergraduate research leaders participated in the planning session. The session was divided into two parts. During the first part participants were asked to review the 8 recommendations from Beth Cunningham’s report (fall, 2010) and generate 5 actionable items. Part two required participants to identify best undergraduate research practices from sister UW campuses based upon the ‘Proposal for a Workshop Program on Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research at the UW-System’.

PART 1

The core question was ‘what are ways we might consider achieving Cunningham’s recommendations?’ Participants were separated into small groups and shared their ideas. Then, they generated a group list of five actionable items. Following are the results from each group:

Group 1:

1. External advisory board for provost/administration from peer institutions. This can include experts in undergraduate research from other institutions.
2. Undergraduate research stipends for students and accompanying compensation for faculty (either monetary or release time).
3. Research project ideas portal for faculty and perhaps students. The idea was brought up as whether or not to make this a secure portal. This could be helpful for newer faculty to access information and get ideas.
4. Advertise undergraduate research to the same level and degree as athletic team coverage. This could include:
   a. News articles
   b. Award ceremonies
   c. Certificates
   d. Notifications sent to hometown papers
5. Training packet for first year advisors, program directors, SSA, and faculty/staff to help entering freshman or transfer students to know about research opportunities and options.

Sylvia’s suggestion was to bring in an external person (who is familiar with writing high-level grants like NSF) to help assess and build an infrastructure to help select groups to work to develop research project. They could help determine what Stout needs to build a research base on campus (for example the website).
Group 2:

1. Expand mélange and portals of discovery.
2. Summer research (REU’s) and/or bridge programs for students before their freshman year at Stout.
3. Early research experiences (ex. Bridge programs or those for 1st and 2nd year students).
4. Incubation grant money to fund ideas along with restructuring courses
5. Connecting alumni to research week. This could also include the foundation, chancellor and alumni.

Group 3:

1. Funding for students (for example a stipend given for research) and faculty.
2. Workload or other compensation for faculty, including:
   a. Tenure or promotions
   b. Performance reviews
3. Research versus experiential learning in student’s mind. It was brought up that students often confuse undergraduate research with co-op and internship experiences.
4. Systematic study of similar campuses (other large polytechnic institutions).
   a. See Armstrong in the quarterly
   b. Actually implement our findings
5. Alumni/donor visits
   a. The alumni could “sponsor” specific students. For example, an alumni or company could sponsor a specific student’s research then come talk about their results.

Participants were then asked to identify 1 item that was most doable in the next 6 months. The top vote getters were:

2 votes:

- Connecting alumni to research week.
- Systematic study of similar campuses (other large polytechnic institutions).

1 vote:

- Undergraduate research stipends for students and accompanying compensation for faculty.
- Advertise undergraduate research to the same level and degree as athletic team coverage.
- Training packet for first year advisors, program directors, SSA, and faculty/staff to help entering freshman or transfer students to know about research opportunities.
PART 2
In small groups participants were assigned four UW sister campuses and asked to identify two - four best practices they felt worthy of further investigation for potential adoption by UW-Stout. Following are results:

Group 1: looked at UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Superior and UW-Whitewater

6. Summer research fellowships for students. Most of these only had a small number of students who were involved in these programs. 
7. (not from other campuses) Redefine Access to Learning by petitioning students
8. A senior experience across all departments

Group 2: looked at UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside and UW-Platteville

1. $700,000 and 15 faculty lines (UW-Milwaukee)
2. Release time (3 credits) for faculty
3. Try for REU’s, etc…
   a. Students are seem as “full collaborators” on research projects

Group 3: looked at UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-Lacrosse and UW-Madison

6. Multiple funding sources 
   a. Tailored to student’s academic year standing or
   b. Tailor to specific research topic
7. Summer REU’s- supported by the campus (UW-Eau Claire)
8. Participation in conferences by students. At Stout, we could set a goal of a certain number or percentage of students we would like to attend.
9. Spring research events- gaining a healthy attendance. Also look at who attends the events- Lacrosse has large community participation.
10. Faculty/Student collaboration

It was noted that Stout seems to be doing the things in this last list, but look at others schools (and find out how) because they are doing them better.

NEXT STEPS
Sue will meet with the CORE group and they can decide on a plan and possible deadline. 

Exciting developments with research: The Student Research Grant has been granted base funding through ATL for $30,000 a year. We will be exploring what the funding may go give optimal experiences for students. The Discovery Center has been granted $20,000 for students to do research, and they are still deciding how to use these funds.

At the end of meeting, it was suggested that students wishing to participate in research events (like Research Day) are paired with an alumni from a similar program, which they would send a personal email to inviting the alumni to the research event.