Notes from BEAMS FLC  
April 11, 2007  

Attending: Doug Cremer, Satinder Dhiman, Randy Stauffer  

We came up with the following in response to the assigned task:  

Engage in open-ended brainstorming about possible strategies for enhancing educational experiences based on both internal analysis and external research leading to a list of five strategies, and then decide upon the predominant one.  

Herewith:  

1. The need to effectively implement and sustain a campus culture that supports innovative teaching strategies, from seminar discussions to active learning to team teaching in order to facilitate and deepen relationships between students and faculty and among students themselves.  

2. The creation of social spaces and informal learning spaces on campus, such as the changes in the library, the completion of the I-Scape project, the listing of unused classrooms for informal study times, and satellite spaces furnished with chairs, low tables, power and lighting for students to use as part of the plan for adaptive reuse in order to build relationships among students.  

3. The development of focused issue groups or alliances to address common life and career issues in the university and the community (such as tolerance for ethnic and cultural diversity, personal mastery and self-development, green policies and sustainability, or civic responsibility and social justice) among students, staff and faculty  

4. The establishment of a set of programs (similar to urban, gender or ethnic studies programs) that combine the curricular and co-curricular in ways that draw upon existing courses and activities but coordinates and enhances them by linking to issues and problems in the contemporary world, allowing students (in collaboration with faculty and staff) to develop coordinated experiences, portfolios and capstone projects.  

5. Our final recommendation is actually a synthesis of all four: by creating affiliations around transdisciplinary issues for all members of the community (as in #3), we can tie these in a variety of ways to academic and student programs and organizations (as in #4), supporting innovative approaches to learning (as in #1) while also creating spaces, even if communal ones, that sustain informal learning and relationships (as in #2)  

Humbly submitted,  

Doug Cremer