Teagle Assessment Project

For our Teagle assessment project, the economics department will focus on the final learning goal specified above and its associated objectives. Our intention is to assess whether the senior thesis achieves the objectives associated with our expectations for the original economics research project. We will create a rubric that will measure success on a number of different dimensions associated with writing a literature review, using economic analysis to create testable hypotheses, collecting, managing and analyzing data, and presenting the work and its finding professionally. Each thesis will be read by at least two faculty members and graded with the rubric. Then, after graduation, we will have a departmental meeting where we look at the compiled scores on the rubric and discuss especially successful and unsuccessful theses. From this evaluation we will identify problem areas for the students and determine where in the curriculum we can best address these problems. The final report will give recommendations for changes in the curricula broadly and in specific syllabi in core and related courses. Our hope is to create a rubric this spring which we can test in the fall using the student thesis proposals, with the expectation that we can make changes and improvements as needed. The first formal use of the rubric will be with theses written by the class of 2014 economics majors.