The New England Faculty Development Consortium (NEDFC) focuses on “enhancing professional development of faculty and administrators” and draws attendees from a variety of institutions from across New England. The focus of the conference was Innovative Pedagogy and Course Redesign: Collaborations for Empowerment and Learning. The keynote was “Universal Design for Learning Immersion Experience” which provided examples on the important topic of universal design. Though not the best presentation, universal design highlights the importance of designing courses so that different types of learners can access all aspects of courses. This often entails a variety of content delivery (text, audio, video) and assessment (projects, essays, exams, presentations, etc.) options with a focus on student agency through choice of delivery and assessments. (Several years ago, Smith had an excellent faculty workshop on this topic led by a professor from Landmark College.) An interesting concurrent session focused on teaching critical and creative thinking. A useful resource in this area is the Critical Thinking Foundation. In another concurrent session, I presented my recent work on course-based research in an Organic Chemistry II lab section. We had an excellent discussion of this course and the student outcomes with science faculty in attendance. Overall, NEFDC conferences are convenient, local meetings to present on pedagogical topics to a diverse higher ed audience.