

## ASP Town Meeting – February 20, 2009

### Research, Creativity, and Scholarship Discussion – led by Jakki Mohr

#### Notes from Sarah Cullison

- Infrastructure
  - is a key issue for advancing research at UM
  - in the sciences we need to plan for staff/administration for instrument centers; these often receive federal start-up funding (i.e. EPSCoR) but there is no money available for maintenance over time
    - this can lead to loss of faculty when expectations of continued instrument availability are not met over time
  - need to develop cyber infrastructure; need separate space to run multi-node computers, need high speed internet, etc....
  - approx. half of those present came to discuss this issue
- PhD support
  - need to develop PhD support-link b/t grad programs and research;
  - hard to increase research without a good background for increasing grad students
- Purchasing/human resources
  - new investigators face issues with purchasing and human resources (which has not been a problem for faculty when they were at other institutions)
  - there is too much red tape simply b/c of the fear of auditors
- Service
  - UM needs to have simplified and cleared service requirements (especially for new faculty) so service doesn't stifle research
- Failed searches
  - we need culturally relevant faculty to attract good PhD students
  - too many failed searches b/c UM can't attract the top junior faculty in a field b/c of poor startup funds, poor instrument centers
- Research direction
  - some feel we need to focus resources only on programs that can get federal funding in this bad economy
  - others hope UM won't base programmatic decisions only on how much \$ they bring in
  - many programs that don't get large outside funding offer other rewards in terms of scholarship/service (i.e. journalism has the community news network to distribute legislative news to papers too poor to send a representative to all legislative sessions)
    - these programs are worried about being eliminated
    - liberal arts school should have research for the sake of research
    - non-science faculty need a basic level of support to be successful (i.e. funding for travel to mtgs outside of the state-retention issue)
    - recognize the importance of primary research even if it isn't publishable (i.e. archiving dying Native American languages); the university doesn't recognize service to communities, only includes # of committees server on

- Connections
  - need to build UM's connections around the state
    - i.e. the rural institute works with the dept. of health and human services
  - often these connections are made through single faculty but more connections could be made if there was institutional support for this
    - i.e. could encourage state support by training students to work in disability fields that then benefit the state
- Cross-disciplinary
  - Humanities center-if the funding was available would like to establish a cross-disciplinary humanities center
  - how well do the hard sciences interface with other departments like humanities and economics
    - there is some interaction b/t sciences and business but we could have better networking for this
    - need a database of all faculty/students on campus and their scholarship interests to facilitate collaborations on campus
- Sustainability
  - need excellent facilities that don't have large carbon footprints/work on reducing travel footprints
  - need better publication of green efforts on campus
  - need to make campus aware of the long-term benefits-i.e. while it's initially more expensive to build green bldgs, it saves a lot in energy costs over time
- TA's
  - problems with the model where TA's each teach an entire small section on their own
  - should switch to large undergrad classes where TA's are just the assistants; use more as graders than lecturers
- Grad student support
  - grad students are more expensive than undergrads
  - have different pillars of grad ed at UM
    - most masters students in social work have to pay their own way while students in the sciences expect tuition/salary support if they are going to come/stay at UM
  - grant money is being used up to pay out-of-state tuition for grad students instead of on research, these students should get in-state status
- Tech Transfer
  - why are we competing with MSU on this?
  - we could have one office for the entire state to manage tech transfer with representations on each campus
  - this would reduce costs for both institutions and allow better support (i.e. lawyers, patent experts, etc...)
  - ASP committee could make licensing/tech transfer more explicit in the issues (right now is prominent only in aspirations, not in issues)

- UM's effect on Montana's economy
  - need to increase knowledge of how important UM is to Montana's economy (research as enterprise)
- Arts
  - UM is the flagship school for the arts in MT
  - we have the only performance degrees
  - we need facilities to support these humanities endeavors
- Seems like UM is trying to form new programs without first fixing the problems with current programs