

ASP Town Meeting – February 6, 2009
Graduate Education Discussion – led by Carol Brewer

Notes from Andrew King-Ries

Prioritizing Strategic Issues

Initial questions posed to attendants:

1. If you were a member of the committee, what direction would you take from this point forward?
2. What would surprise you in 3 years?

Issues raised during discussion:

1. Homeland security regulation/limitations on on-line courses for students
 - Connected to VISA requirements for visiting scholars
2. Transparency/communication and legislative liaison: better information
3. Diversity
 - Distinctiveness of UM and Native American education/Indian Ed for all/Tribal colleges
 - o Something which sets UM apart
4. World Around Us
 - Highlight link between languages and research
 - o Both for undergrads and grad students
5. Value added resource issue with International Programs
 - Reciprocity with overseas universities
 - Wise use of UM resources to allow faculty to go overseas w/o compensation/tuition reimbursement?
 - Better valuation of visiting scholars through better integration of interdisciplinary efforts
6. Workplace conditions
 - Important on list
 - UM has no consideration for people's time
 - o Committee work, etc
7. Research v. Teaching loads

- How do exciting research with current teaching loads?
 - Differing workloads/teaching loads between schools/colleges
 - What constitutes research/scholarship?
8. Achieving optimal enrollment
- This seems to be a threshold question and influences other strategic issues
 - Undergraduate admissions (also deals with undergraduate experience)
 - o Easy to get in but might not be prepared for UM level work
 - This has morale implications for faculty
9. Graduate Student Instruction
- Work loads
 - Training
 - Highlight their accomplishments/activities
 - English: 37 TAs=undergraduate writing program
 - Build into SP that this is a feature of grad programs
 - o Stipends/other experience
10. Unprepared freshman
- Board of Regents policy (11/07)
 - o 15% exemption policy
 - o Increased standards for writing
11. Where does UM fit into overall hierarchy of US higher education?
- We are not going to be world-class
 - o Can depend on department/college/program
12. Need better communication around strategic planning process and successes/shortcoming in future
13. Highlight what our best students need in strategic plan
- Make some room for those students' needs
14. How many UM undergrads go onto grad. Education at UM/across the country?
- This might help indentify centers of excellence in undergrad
 - o This could be one outcome measure. Other disciplines might have different outcome measures
15. What is process of subcommittee work?

16. Changing policy v. resource allocation
 - This can be important part of the strategic planning process
17. Increase relevancy of UM to policy makers in state/region
 - Service-learning/outreach
 - o Can influence grad/undergrad
18. Workplace conditions
 - Collective bargaining process
19. Keep community up to date on process of prioritizing strategic issues