October 28, 2010

Minutes from the meeting of the Academic Program strategic plan working group

In attendance:

Susan Calovini, Jennie Ebeling, Rob Griffith, Beth Hennon (notetaker), Susan Kupisch, Barbara Price (trustee)
Don Rodd, Pete Rosen, Donna Teague, Melanie Bacaling (student)

The meeting began with a review of information compiled by Dr. Miller regarding some comparative programs in the Health Sciences. The information summarizes which schools in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio that we would be in competition with if we expanded our Health Sciences offerings in certain directions. Concern was raised as a large number of relatively close universities already offered the degrees.

- Discussion included the extent to which we should consider the following when contemplating new areas for expansion:
  o What areas have the greatest demand in the local community?
  o What areas have the greatest job opportunities overall?
  o What is our local competition?
  o Where can we be ahead of the curve, rather than trailing the field?
  o How many (if any) new faculty would be necessary to develop that area?
  o How many (if any) new facilities would be needed?
- Additional comments concerned whether it is more prudent to focus on expanding some existing programs or on developing entire new majors.
  o Some programs might be expanded just in terms of enrollment, with the addition of some physical facilities.
  o Some programs might be able to develop new specializations and/or certificate programs.
  o How might we able to build strengths in one area/college as a foundation for specializations within a different major/college?

The group continued by discussing some of the broad areas of academics that had been discussed at the previous meeting:

- Graduate and adult programs
  o School of Business, Health Sciences, Education, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, ...
  o Certificate programs within existing programs
  o Further adult-education night programs
- Undergraduate programs
  o Expanding stellar existing programs
  o Identifying points/areas in which UE is unique
    ▪ Incorporating Harlaxton/global focus
    ▪ Core liberal arts with professional opportunities
Identifying areas/majors that have room for growth
  - Which areas could handle more students without additional faculty/facilities?
  - Which ones with minimal additional resources?
  - Which ones with more notable additional resources?

- Enhancing/Developing programs that can improve our reputation and/or provide greater exposure for UE in positive ways

- Again – how can we blend the needs of society with our existing, unique offerings

- Global/International aspects
  - Study abroad
  - New majors and/or minors
  - Incorporating a greater global aspect to some existing programs
  - Investigating alternative sources of financial support – e.g., Title 6

- General Education/First Year Studies/Major Discovery
  - How to maximize the benefit of these programs that cross majors
  - How to create distinctively UE options within these

The student representative summarized some conversations she had had with fellow students during the previous week. She found that students were very interested in/liked:

- Smaller class sizes
- Higher overall academic standards
- Having a relatively large number of majors/options to choose between
- The Honor’s program, but would like to see it expanded
- Nicer buildings/facilities
- Having better access to speakers who are invited to “campus”
  - Noted that it is inconvenient to travel to the Centre or Victory to listen to a talk
- Specific majors had often influenced their decision to come to UE
  - Including several majors not often found at similar undergraduate institutions

Finally, goals were set for the next meeting (November 4th): Members were to think about the topics discussed already, focusing on:

- Forming up to 5 “chunks” of topic areas
- Considering developing a matrix to help determine which areas might have the biggest impact on enrollment and/or reputation, which builds most on our existing unique strengths, which most fulfill our mission, etc.