November 18, 2010

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

In attendance:

Susan Calovini, Rob Griffith, Beth Hennon (notetaker), Susan Kupisch, Kristy Miller, Don Rodd, Donna Teague, Don Voss

The meeting began with a discussion of the expectations from the steering committee and precisely what the group needs to have developed by January. Our recommendations for the strategic plan should include directions or themes that will provide overall direction for the University.

- For example, financial ramifications of goals and strategies do not need to be worked out.
- Reminder: this is not a final plan, but should be close to a final draft.
- Discussion about the fact that the group currently has many options they’ve discussed, but that that list will need to be trimmed prior to the final draft.
- Focus should be primarily on the “5-year-plan,” but with some items that form more of a 10-year-plan.

The main discussion began with a consideration of the phrasings of the four main goals. Overall the consensus was that the four were well-done, but that fine-tuning may be needed in the weeks to come.

Next, each of the sub-committees reported on their discussions from their meetings during the week.

- Enrollment Enhancement
  o Discussion of potential new programs/degrees/areas for expansion
  o Discussion of departments that have room for growth in enrollment without additional resources
    ▪ i.e., departments that could accept and graduate more majors without additional faculty or physical space
  o Discussion of departments that were currently at capacity, but that have additional demand
    ▪ i.e., departments that are turning away prospective students
    ▪ Discussion focused on whether additional resources could allow them to accept more students into the program
- Reputation Enhancement
  o Discussion of programs that currently have local, national (or broader) recognition
  o Discussion of programs that could develop into having that level of recognition
    ▪ Programs that might reach this level with a small push from additional resources
  o What programs are our “signature” programs, and why?
    ▪ Level of recognition vs. sheer number of majors
  o Which programs will draw attention to the University?
- International Involvement/Global Citizenship
  o Discussion of a centralized physical facility, with resources, to guide international aspects
  o Discussion of the inclusion of international/global/diversity issues in more than just the general education curriculum
    ▪ Similar to the “writing across the curriculum” program
  o Discussion of the development of new programs with an international focus and additional support for existing programs
  o Discussion of the possibility of non-program/degree on-campus options relevant to international issues
    ▪ Ex., More international speakers
- Foundational Programs
  o Discussion of general education requirements
  o Discussion of developing a more signature first-year seminar/experience courses
    ▪ How to create an option that will be a valuable tool for admissions/recruitment
  o Discussion of the Honors’ program and the Major Discovery programs
    ▪ How to enhance each
    ▪ How to use each for recruitment of incoming freshmen