Minutes from the Student Development work group

Date: Thursday, Nov. 18 at 8 a.m.

Present: Suzanne Bailey, Dan Byrne, Dana Clayton, Vincent Harper, Mike Hinton, Mike Jacobs, Ralph Larmann, Steve Mussett, Debbie Kassenbrock, Brock Reneer, Gary Rigley, Sarah Solinsky, John Stanley, Ellen Swain and Tamara Wandel

Agenda Item:
  - Discuss results from the November 17 focus groups held with representatives from Student Congress and members of various athletic teams

The focus groups, held by members of the Student Development work group, asked three broad questions to initiate discussion. These three question categories included:

1) Why did you choose UE? What other schools were you considering and why?

2) Academics aside, what is it about your student experience at UE that you value the most? Given what you know now, how could that positive experience be even better?

3) Given the charge of this particular strategic planning working group – Student Development and Athletics, here is your magic wand question – If you could change/improve one thing at UE (eliminating tuition is not an option), what would it be?

In response to the first question, the students mentioned Butler, Notre Dame, IUPUI, IU and Purdue most often, but several others were mentioned as well. As for questions #2 and #3, students were overall very pleased with their experience at UE. Their biggest concerns centered around a general feeling of disconnect once they were living off campus. In addition, they said they did not feel the campus and surrounding areas had a positive feeling of a “college town”. Many of the focus groups discussed a lack of tradition as part of being a UE student, and several groups mentioned that a football program would be an asset. Finally, all the groups discussed feeling like facilities weren't up to par with providing the level of quality they expected. They were particularly concerned about the Fitness Center as well as the lack of places to congregate on campus.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at 8 a.m.