December 2, 2010

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

In attendance:

Susan Calovini, Jennie Ebeling, Rob Griffith, Beth Hennon (notetaker), Susan Kupisch, Kristy Miller, Barbara Price (Trustee), Don Rodd, Pete Rosen, Brian Swenty, Donna Teague, Don Voss, Melanie Bacaling (student), Ray Lutgring (representative from the Financial Resources working group)

The meeting began with a review of the meeting held between the steering committee and the (co-)chairs of each of the working groups. At that meeting, phrasings for each of this group’s four main goals were revised (see below). Also, discussion covered the level of detail/precision expected in the final draft. Overall, the level of detail that this group had been developing was seen as roughly where we should be. However, as discussed at the previous meeting of this group, there is simply too much in each of the goals. One primary task of the group in the coming month will be to refine and reduce the number of suggestions. The group was reminded that the intent is to create a 5-year plan, although some aspects will be more future-oriented.

- Information from the Deans/Chairs meeting regarding this process was also discussed. Two primary concerns expressed during that meeting were that this group needs to have some more options that look further than just 5 years and remember to keep the university’s identity and mission in mind when making these suggestions.

Next, the group worked through each of the four goals, working at refining and clarifying the intentions for each.

“Enhance enrollment by identifying opportunities for new programs, enrolling to capacity in programs with room for growth, and expanding programs with excess demand”
- Discussion of potential programs/degrees not currently offered by UE, but with the possibility for future offerings.
  o Which programs fit well within the current offerings and within the university’s identity/mission?
  o Which programs are viable at UE?
- Discussion of programs that currently are not at full enrollment
- Discussion of programs with “excess demand” that have the potential for accommodating more students if provided with the necessary resources

“Leveraging the reputation of distinctive programs for University recognition”
- Discussion of which programs are distinctive enough to be able to be leveraged for the benefit of other programs

“Focus on an international emphasis throughout the curriculum”
- Creation of a unit that consolidates the international offices and programs, both on-campus and elsewhere (ex., study abroad)
- Discussion of the need for a specific requirement in general education similar to “International Perspectives,” AND an overall requirement for additional coursework relevant to more international/global/diversity issues throughout the curriculum
- Establish new programs/degrees that contain an international/global focus

“Enhance the distinctiveness of our foundational programs “
- Need to develop a signature general education curriculum that includes a challenging, unique freshman experience
- Bolster the Major Discovery program to enhance recruitment and retention
- Elevate the profile of the Honor’s program and leverage it to raise the academic profile of opportunities campus-wide

The next meeting will focus on the fourth goal – “Enhance the distinctiveness of our foundational programs”