Theme Summary of Comments from Fall 2008 Listening Sessions
Provided at the listening sessions, comment cards and message board

Each comment can be coded into BOTH a cross-cutting theme, and a regular theme– or only into one or the other.

Cross cutting themes are ideas that cut across multiple themes. For example, individuals discussed the need to "collaborate" in order to provide experiential learning opportunities, develop partnerships with the community, to improve online courses, and to improve the website.

Cross-Cutting Themes	Definition	Frequency*
Program array/existing coursework	Add more programs and certificates– but selectively, enhance existing programs, programs/courses in sustainability, programs/courses in entrepreneurship, with global experience, sustainability, language proficiency requirement, executive education center, money management, honors program, multicultural topics. We are already doing this.	61
Marketing	Don't just market Stout – market our programs, experiential learning opportunities, placement rates, starting salaries, , polytechnic designation, research opportunities, clubs/extracurriculars, sustainability initiatives, aspects of Stout that would appeal to non-traditional students, and other strengths	36
Sustainability	Reduce paper, e-waste, flexible work week, energy efficiency, sustainable fuel, provide options for carpooling, carbon offsets, utilize online resources, implement new academic programs and courses in sustainability. Jarvis should have been designed with sustainability in mind.	31
Collaborate	Agreements with international institutions, partnerships with high schools, UW System, businesses and local entities. Look for opportunities along IQ corridor. Need for resources to make this happen. Collaborate within Stout as well – across departments	22
Resource and Infrastructure Needs	Need dollars, FTE and physical facilities (both new and remodeling of existing facilities) to implement these initiatives	17
Definitions	"What do you mean by…."	16

Regular themes are traditional themes that we would identify in any qualitative project. They identify ideas that have been mentioned multiple times across the listening sessions, comment cards and message boards. Ideas that were only mentioned a few times are not included as a theme, but can be viewed by reading through the comments from the individual sessions that are posted on the BPA webpage.

Regular Themes	Definition	Frequency*
Experiential learning	Experiential learning includes these components: Applied research, internships, co-ops, community service, applied experiences in the classroom, service learning, and participation in professional organizations. Important to include both undergraduate and graduate students in these opportunities – working alongside faculty and staff.	43
Address needs of "non-traditional" students – but define non-traditional broadly	Veterans, older students, students with disabilities, and "non-traditional" students (not further defined). Consider changing demographics and declines in high school population.	27
Online courses, as well as technology needs	Provide resources to develop/enhance online courses; utilize online courses as a way to attract non-traditional students	25
Need for global experiences away from campus	Need to send faculty/staff and students to study abroad programs. Includes both long and short-term programs. Look at exchange programs for both faculty and students. Concerns about how we can provide appropriate financial support for these experiences. Consider the possibility of requiring a second language.	20
Faculty workload	Classes are too large, don't have time to do both research and teaching, don't have time for committee work. Need additional resources to address these concerns. Need to determine balance between teaching requirements and service requirements. Salaries are too low.	14
Need to bring diverse individuals from global locations to Stout	Increase international students, faculty and staff. Attract diverse individuals to Stout.	11
Website	Improve the Stout website – not attractive, too many broken links, provide technicians for each department. Balance of value vs. cosmetics.	10
Graduate programs and graduate assistantships	Expand existing graduate programs; add new graduate programs	9
Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship program, incubator, ability to bring high visibility to Stout	8
Need to connect Stout to global experiences via technology	Utilize technology to bring students together when they aren't physically together. Internationalization at home experiences.	7
Partnering locally/Helping the Community	Collaborate with the community and UW Extension to offer experiential learning opportunities. Assist with community sustainability initiatives.	7
Admissions standards	Admissions standards too lenient – we let in too many people; admissions standards too strict – we don't let in enough people with diverse backgrounds. Also includes comments about rankings in US News	5
Lean	Implement lean principles, reduce signatures on forms	3

*frequencies do not include message board comments