

Listening Session Notes, 9-24-08

- Are we dwindling down the themes further or narrowing them down further? Some of these themes will have more priorities than others.
- At summer session, were there 1-3 things that really stuck out amongst the groups?

Adapt Delivery Methods for the Needs of Non-Traditional Students

- Is this referring to distance learning? From an attitude standpoint I know that other institutions treat it as developing a textbook/publishing. They go through a 3-year process that can be taught and sold. Maybe have a publishing process in place for online courses? Do we have a mechanism in place to help professors publish, get their expertise out there? This would help extend Stout's reputation.
- Look at what other institutions have done that have online programs – what is successful what isn't successful?
 - Distance learning program had infrastructure in place that helped guide instructor through process. Similar to a publisher going through a book writing process. Gave them support for video/animation to enhance online experience, check points along the way to help professor do this. Would bring in people to help professor develop materials, usually took 3 years to complete.
- With recent vets that come back from Iraq, could there be a method to help these individuals? This should be a theme for 2015.
- How many non-traditional students do we have now? Are we expecting this number to grow?
- How is non-traditional defined? There are some students that want to do online but are other students that are returning. Are we trying to cultivate non-traditional students or should we focus instead on programs that need cultivating to attract other (traditional and non-traditional) students? Programs that are in demand. Look at future careers – how is Stout aligning itself with those careers to attract more students in general?
- In regards to the Vets – how do we go about paying for that do to the GI bill? If we try to attract and push to bring them here we need to address how to offset the costs.
- Some colleges such as Iowa service the entire state through satellite to reach a vast area. We should observe some universities that are servicing not just a region but an entire state.

Expand Applied Research

- I like this – great theme. Trade off between time spent teaching and time spent researching. How will we create the time to do the research – release, changes in course loads, expectation to find funding?
- We see increase in faculty wanting to do research – no systematic ways to do this. There should be a better infrastructure around this.
- Plug for enterprise of undergraduate research. I like to see this raised as an emphasis for students.
- Be inclusive.
- Traditionally undergraduate students help out – what if we treat those more as grad students is there a way to work with Career services or get funding/write grants for students to get credit for projects? Decide how many can be handled by faculty research and how many could be handled by students. Opportunity for students to get paid and get credit for their work on a project. Need an infrastructure in place.
- Discovery Center in place could help with the research issues.
- Discovery Center can help draw in undergrad students.

Go Global

- More clarification on 'global ready'. What does this mean? Do we mean cultural sensitivity? If so, it should be include into the language.
- We have a desperate need for an ESL program. English dept deals weekly with students who do not have appropriate ESL skills. Set up ESL program or fund something. From English dept perspective this is a significant problem.
- In terms of international students coming here, it would be useful to learn from the students here currently what their experience is like. Their experience in Menomonie will be different than in Minneapolis. What can we do to improve the environment and cooperate with community?
- If we develop online delivery methods – we could expand this internationally. We should collaborate with international institutions.

Focus on Sustainability

- It seems like we are doing really well – energy efficiency
- How much of the image of the polytechnic requires front line technology in this area? Are these a piece of the image of a Polytechnic?

- UW-River Falls advertises sustainability efforts in the St. Paul paper and so does Stevens Point.
- Another issue is that a lot of faculty that work here, but work a long distance away. Part of sustainability is to look at ways to get people to campus or work from home that is more fuel efficient. Carpooling webpage is great, the more we do is better.
- Something with fleet vehicles is an opportunity to help carbon offsets. I don't know how much we use but it is an opportunity. Look at hybrids.
- We do have classes that discuss sustainability are popular. More courses are coming online all the time.

Experiential Learning

- Someone at a previous listening session had remarked that if we look for 100% goal may be difficult due to business cycles and type of programs. There should be some flexibility with capstone, co-op experiences. Not sure if it has been a problem in the past, unsure if 100% will be difficult or easy to achieve?
- Include service learning so if co-op or internship didn't fit, a service learning project would meet the requirements.
- Research project should be included.
- Have we thought of working with the businesses in this area when it comes to co-ops? What type of learning are we currently doing with businesses, has it increased jobs in this area? What is the focus? It seems like our first priority would be to do everything we can for the businesses in our area.
- How do we prioritize? Do we go global? We do a lot of partnerships but the biggest thing is that there are no jobs in this area. There has to be a balance. Are there dollars that the university could put towards success of I-94 corridor? Has education/technology in this area transformed anything? CVTC enrollment is down. Can we help locally or state-wide for workers that are out of work, will education benefit them?
- At one point, there was talk about requirement of service hours before graduation. What happened to this discussion? This could be implemented to have a requirement.
- 55,000 alumni 53% live in Wisconsin, we perhaps haven't used them as a resource to locate Co-op or research opportunities...not just money.

Expand Program Array in Focused Manner

- Need to address issue of humanities in the Polytechnic. Humanities should be included in Polytechnic model.

- Stress the importance of Graduate programs. If high school grads are peaking and then decreasing, try to attract these students to continue their education. Enhance graduate programs and strength of graduate school.
- Is 10 areas too many program areas to be focused?
- Graduate program should be focused on.
- We aren't strategically looking at where the economy is being hit and where we can grow based on the economy.

Marketing

- A number of people have commented on the possible role of serving the local community, should we consider rethinking the role of the institution as a local institution with a national distinction.
- We are a really good university that is located in a rural area. UW-EC has communication system in place that we don't have. So if we are going to do marketing and branding so we need to rely on online and social media venues. Other side of the coin, we need to market our programs. We need to think differently than other schools. We are the underdog. We need to market the benefits of our programs and the opportunities here. Very few universities do this effectively. Market like the private sector, here are our product/services and why we are better and market success rate and our contribution we are making nationally.

Entrepreneurship

- Easy to define, hard to develop. Area that we could collaborate with other institutions. We have a business program can be tied in with other programs. Entrepreneurship programs at other institutions that are quite successful. Can we bring these with our programs? Seize a market and need to "do something." Grow our own out of current business program or buy it from another institution with successful institutions. Management of an idea into the marketplace. Combination of science/technology with administration.
- One thing I've noticed is most entrepreneurs are focused and intelligent. Are able to recognize the next big thing. Connect honors program and entrepreneurship program go hand-in-hand. Attract the best and brightest students to raise the bar. Our honors program isn't leveraged as well as we should be. Bring in speakers, entrepreneurs to become a part of the network and whole spirit.
- How do you define best and the brightest?
 - Out of the box thinkers. High-spirited. Apply themselves. My brother started 3 businesses but was a C student. Can't just look at grades. Risk takers, certain mindset.

We are lacking risk takers and real leadership. This whole country needs to get back into.

- More of a holistic admissions approach.
- WI is relatively low for risk takers.
 - This is unfortunate since many things came out of this area.
- We should be less prescriptive of how our courses are offered to allow for more entrepreneurship or sustainability. Provide flexibility within programs, allow students to experiment.

Collaboration

- It is hard to be against it. It is easy to come to the top as a theme.
- Do we have a roadmap for who the gatekeepers are for fostering collaboration? How is this being controlled?