

Listening Session comments at Stout Student Association (SSA) meeting on Tuesday, Sept 30, 2008

Adapt Delivery Methods to Meet Needs of Non-Traditional Students

- It is a great idea for the university to focus on non-traditional student needs
- Are there things the university can do to enhance the on-campus experience and environment for them?
- Create a welcoming climate for non-traditional students

Expand Applied Research

- Require co-ops and internships for all students and majors
- Include an applied research component and a service learning component as a an option because not all majors are able to find a co-op or internship program
- Require students to obtain membership in a professional organization in their major in the first or second year on campus; this would help keep students in touch with their field of study
- Offer experiential learning opportunities early in the undergraduate years so students can find out early if they are in the right major. For example, the Construction major requires this of freshmen, and they must have an internship to graduate. Perhaps this could be used a model.

Go Global

- UW-Stout currently only offers two foreign languages, French and Spanish. If the university is serious about going global, it must offer additional languages, e.g. German, Italian. Perhaps collaboration with technical colleges or other nearby colleges could be set up to offer additional language study opportunities. Currently, some Stout students take classes at the technical colleges to obtain experience in other languages.
- Overseas technology classes are hard to find
- Continue marketing the international education programs to all students

Focus on Sustainability

- Use food waste to create methane gas to power the campus. For example, near Menomonie the Five Star Dairy operation uses a methane gas collector, which generates enough power for 6700 homes.
- Focus on diverse ways to save energy
- Example: dining services sells used oil to someone locally who uses it for fuel

Emphasize Experiential Learning

- Look at starting an entrepreneur school at Stout which would provide additional hands on learning skills which students can use for starting up small businesses. This would continue the process of providing Stout with a niche market among all the UW's.
- Are co-ops or internships offered overseas? Could this effort be expanded?
- What percent of majors currently require co-ops? It should be all.

Grow Program Array in Focused Manner

- How does Stout grow programs? Environmental scanning, faculty interests, review current job market for new fields of study, the Curricular Incubation Center at Stout, receive input from Stout grads and undergrads for ideas, the colleges have student councils.
- Ask incoming freshmen what fields of study they are interested in that may not be offered at Stout
- Can the Curricular Incubation Center meet at another time of year in addition to the summer?
- Model the Math TLC and the Writing Lab to do these things in the classroom in other disciplines
- Immediate feedback after taking tests is a great learning tool for students
- Add a money management course to the Gen Ed required courses – prefer that this be for credit
- Use the math teaching model “Course Compass” learning tool for other courses
- Incorporate a money management component in the Career Exploration course that is currently taken by freshmen students who are undecided in major, and then require this course as part of the Gen Ed courses; transfers would not have to take this course
- Should a personal finance course be required for all students?

Expand Marketing Efforts

- Showcase areas of strength of UW-Stout in marketing efforts
- Incorporate the clubs and other extracurricular activities at UW-Stout in marketing strategy, e.g. students enroll at Stout because of the Rugby Club
- Market student organizations to prospective students
- There are 137 student organizations at Stout; on the website, categorize the organizations to make it easier for the students to find this information. The Admissions main page should have a link to the student org site. Note: the use of Common Spot will make it easier for students orgs to update their websites
- Find businesses and groups that will pay a student’s tuition if the student agrees to work in a particular geographic area

Increase Entrepreneurship

- Involve construction majors in the upcoming capital projects on campus, capstone courses

Other Suggestions

- Is increasing enrollment causing a problem for on-campus housing needs? There are issues with JTC.
- Be sure to keep field space and green space for students during all of the upcoming capital projects occurring on campus in the next few years.
- Public transportation to north Menomonie is needed for students
- Is there a trend to hire only professors who have a doctorate? Some of the best teachers are from industry and they don't necessarily have a doctorate.
- The website needs to be updated; there are many broken links and too many layers to navigate.
- The students need wireless everywhere on campus, even in residence halls; don't limit wireless.
- When students graduate they would still like to be able to use the programs on their laptop that they take with them that are currently only available through the use of the key server.
- If a smoking ban is instituted on campus, there should be effective solutions for students who smoke.