

Listening Session 2009 Comments

Faculty Senate

Further develop and execute integrated enrollment management

- Greater discussion needed re: academic rigor
- Another reason students may not be studying is due to working too many hours in a job
- Definition of academic rigor could be: The amount of work required to achieve student outcomes
- Rigor has to do with preparing students to think
- Problem solving and demanding quality work on part of students; grading things in a conscientious way
- Relationship between demands placed on faculty; what are we providing for faculty to address the issue of rigor? Proactive with help to instructors and faculty. It takes more time to increase rigor.
- Frame discussion in terms of other ongoing initiatives; try to get more of a synergy across initiatives
- Important when working with cross initiatives that we're intentional with our discussions with our students
- Re: Special Population Recruitment Marketing – not a mention of off campus offerings. We should add this to the list.
- If rigor is increased, more students may find it beyond their capabilities; how do we address those students? Are we willing to accept the increase in failure rate?
- Do we cut enrollment and increase standards or continue as is with lower retention and grad rates?
- We lose about 10% of student cohort because they can't keep up with academic standards, but we lose more students due to reasons other than poor academic performance
- If we increase requirements to get in to Stout, the entire rigor would increase

Focus on sustainability: Implement Key Elements of the President's Climate Commitment and Educational and Applied Research Initiatives

- Re: bicycle friendly: student interest in bicycle sharing. Have bicycles available outside of the residence halls that students can use as needed.

- This is done in other cities; certainly feasible
- Have people donate old bikes; need a bike shop to repair or buy a fleet of bikes (still need a mechanic to maintain)
- What about abandoned bikes? How many of these are there?
- Stout has a student bicycle club that works with BadCat Bicycles. We should include them in this discussion.
- This Idea could be taken back to student government
- Are there any plans to assess how much sustainability has already been taught in our classes?

Develop knowledge, respect and validation of differing values, cultures and beliefs in students, faculty and staff

- Takes long-term planning and long-term involvement in leadership; need a search for positions rather than an appointment for one or two years.
- Overcome fear by developing a knowledge and respect for diversity; everyone respects a wide variety – others and self
- Faculty and staff exchange with other universities in an international arena
- One related issue: educational paths may be different with international students
- Re: faculty exchange : a great deal of learning comes from outside of the classroom. Need to provide opportunities to connect via more than technology.

Expand early and ongoing experiential learning opportunities including undergraduate applied research and entrepreneurship

- RE: community involvement and impact: wonderful to channel community involvement into efforts to revitalize the Menomonie community
- Increase independent study programs
- Not a lot of mention about involving industry and business; works well with engineering and technology programs
- Field experience requirement early in academic career
- Experiential learning is similar to faculty exchange: a lot of learning takes place outside of the classroom