

## Listening Session 2009 Comments

### Stout Student Association

#### *Further develop and execute integrated enrollment management*

- Network more with alumni – they can be a great resource.
- Re-evaluate the laptop program – ensure that students always get the newest computer when they come for refresh. Also consider providing a choice between an Apple and PC.
- We should really look to describe what the Polytechnic designation means at UW-Stout.
- What are we looking to do regarding academic rigor? Why is this important?  
Chancellor's response was that this comment came from student feedback on surveys and focus groups.
- If we lower class sizes, have we looked at the impact on the number of faculty needed?  
Response was that we have done modeling on both increasing and decreasing class sizes.
- How do we make sure that there are enough courses being offered so that students can get into classes? Classes get too full too fast.
- We should be teaching more "outside the box" thinking – creative thinking, problem solving. We do a great job with applied learning, but not with outside the box thinking.
- Students could benefit from more training in personal finances. Right now they learn from their parents.

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

- Which regional initiatives are we thinking that we can be part of?
- Stout should be commended on the changes that have been made in dining services to provide biodegradable plastics.

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

- What does this goal statement mean? It is unclear. Response was that this is a diversity goal – we are looking at how we can increase knowledge, respect and validation across racial/ethnic minorities, students in different age groups, students with disabilities, and other demographic groups that could be considered diverse. When the Chancellor has been traveling to other companies, they have emphasized the need for student to be able to work with people from other cultures.

- We need to let students know what resources are available to them at Stout – particularly multicultural students.

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

- How many people in the room have had an outside speaker (someone not from Stout) come to their class to visit and talk to the students? About half of the students raised their hand.
- We need to know what job opportunities are available by major. How can we obtain a list of job opportunities for each major? I haven't been able to obtain this information from my instructors.
- There should be more opportunities for students to connect to alumni who are working in their major field.
- The way we report placement rates is misleading – we report overall placement rates, but we should report by major. Chancellor's response was that we report placement rates overall and by major – these are two separate statistics.
- What kind of entrepreneurship opportunities are we looking to offer? We should provide training on how to start your own business.
- We need to promote involvement in student organizations early in their time at Stout. Ways that we could promote this would be to: have student organization reps available during student orientation, encourage or require students to go to professional organization meetings, and/or bring in speakers from outside Stout into their classes – this is currently done in some classes