Non-Session Comments from Web & Email

Priority 1
"UW-Stout" Student Competencies

- Student competencies and Equality for Women are high, though costs are unknown and "equality for all" should also be a priority. Adult markets and Change are of lower priority, but should remain listed.

Priority 2
Adult and Nontraditional Markets

- RE: New program development for adult and nontraditional markets - We have a lot of programs in place that need attention and consideration for additional resources. At both the graduate and undergraduate levels, courses that are required of programs are being delivered through Continuing Education and as overloads by faculty. Systems in place that provide feedback from students, graduates and advisory committees indicate this as a poor practice. Before we move into new ventures, we need to make sure that we're taking care of our core business. Related to the 2000-01 priorities, workload issues remain an area of concern, especially program directors. A careful analysis of credit production, credit loads, advisement, and program leadership needs to be conducted. Stout is a special mission university. We have a number of programs that are serviced by 2-5 people. These folks carry enormous responsibilities with inadequate release time. The university needs to address these issues; it would seem appropriate within the priority listings of 2000-1.
- We might have an easier time attracting a non-traditional student population if the Timetable had a separate section that listed all courses that meet at or after 6:00pm. We don't have much offered during that time frame at the present time, but when asked what is offered there is no easy way to look it up. When we see how little it really is we'll understand better why we don't have more non-trads.

Priority 3
Equality for Women

- I am unable to attend the Priority Sessions because of conflicts with my teaching, advising and meeting schedule. However I appreciate this opportunity to share with you my own concern that the Women's Equality Priority be given fair support. If we are to really address this issue on our campus we must be ready and able to fund recommendations at 100 % parity. I am on one of the subcommittees and we are asking that a position be created to deal with all the umbrella issues that affect women and other minority groups on this campus. Thanks for the opportunity to respond and thanks for your work.

Priority 4
Foundation for Change
• I would like to see a community-building priority, aimed at both students and staff. In the student center at 3 pm on a Monday, there are virtually NO students.... no one playing cards, lounging, studying, etc. Where would they lounge if they wanted to? There's not a cozy spot in the building except for a couple of couches by the Great Hall. The student center is not designed well for informal groups and "hanging out"--all spaces are stark and cold, hardly any areas with comfortable chairs, food is a bit expensive. It's as if we assume that no one will spend time there beyond utilitarian eating and meeting. Plus the food service rules are not friendly (no potlucks, homemade birthday cakes or cooking contests allowed, ever.) Faculty barely know people outside their own departments; there are very few evening and weekend activities. One response to dwindling numbers using facilities is to reduce hours; a different one would be to see what has changed over the years in the groups served and make different offerings and accommodations. Obviously, this is a multi-faceted problem with many factors contributing and we cannot rearrange our community's common space very easily, but there are probably many ways to increase Stout community cohesiveness. It would be nice to see the campus have some life after 3 pm, on Fridays and on weekends.

• I certainly agree that the student center is stark and cold--it's way too institutional, and needs to definitely be a friendly place for students, and also for visitors and staff.

**Other Comments:**

• The ASLS webmasters group has been discussing their concerns about the lack of campus resources available to non-instructional staff for web page development. Although members of our group are quite competent in developing web pages, we need to be able to contact someone for answers when we run into more advanced problems. Group members have had difficulty just getting timely responses to fairly basic requests or inquiries. Current campus resources are very limited and in some cases, are dedicated solely to instructional staff. We'd like to see additional campus resources directed toward this area.

• Unfortunately I was unable to attend any of the budget/priority sessions, but I did want to pass on some input. My main thought is that, if the university is moving toward laptops for all incoming freshmen by 2002, it's important that we get the necessary infrastructure in place to support usage of laptops by faculty/staff as well as students. To me, that means:

  - *All* classrooms should have support for a faculty member to bring a laptop into the classroom and project information to the class. Each classroom would thus need a good color projector with connectors to allow a quick hookup from laptop to projector system
  - *Many* classrooms should have support for wireless network connections, to allow the students to use the laptops in the classroom (for group projects, taking notes, accessing material from a department file or application server, etc.)
  - Department labs will need docking stations or wireless network connectivity to allow students to use their computers for homework assignments and extended
laboratory work
- Departments may need additional localized technical support to deal with any issues/problems in deploying this technology
- Possibly speeding up the turnover rate for replacing faculty computers so that faculty can start changing curriculum to take advantage of this and other technological advances

- In Harvey Hall, there have been plans for several semesters to remodel our classrooms to install good color projectors, etc. and the schedule keeps getting delayed. Having one or two portable systems in a building is not sufficient - instructors don't have the time to be moving such equipment back and forth. We need each classroom to have network connectivity and good projectors as a part of the classroom if we are to move forward in our curriculum delivery.

- It's very important that we don't flounder by setting the laptop initiative in motion and then not being able to take advantage of it. The laptop initiative requires a large investment in infrastructure so that the initiative is not just window dressing that we can't use in our teaching and programs. I see this as a primary budget priority.

- As budget priorities are determined for 2001-2002, a review of Kass Ingala's recent memo to the campus relating to classified staffing is important. It appears from that memo and my perspective that a serious review of classified support should take place to ensure departments are supported relative to the scale and activities necessary to serve the expected function. Also, a look at equity relative to department chair allocations should take place to ensure they are consistent with the size and scope of relative departments. As I mentioned in the budget forum, support for advertising funds need to be addressed since departments are expected to pick up the advertising costs. A plan for replacement services and supply funds seem in order so departments are not penalized relative to basic operating funds in years when high turnover occurs. Software support continues to be a problem for departments. Lab modernization projects have greatly enhanced the situation relative to lab equipment and software in labs that are modernized, but maintaining compatible software between labs become a real challenge for departments, students and staff. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I appreciate the budget forums and the tremendous effort to collect information that reflects the voice of people across campus.

- The staffing issue is certainly a volatile one! I believe that every department has its issues about being understaffed--however, equity really is the issue. Let's develop a formula to determine value vs. staffing!!

- Faculty compensation and equity remain a 2-year priority. Currently too many senior faculty remain below the national average in pay. Program Directors in CHD are compensated at $1,000 per year while CTEM and CAS are more than $3,000, not to mention release time and summer compensation. This is grossly unfair.

- I found the budget hearing last Tuesday interesting. There should be more faculty input, but I think they feel they are here to teach and the chair and dean are responsible for everything else. Budget hearings need to come to the department level--to the department committees to truly get input. Salary--we need to look at all the extras--benefits, retirement plan, the quality of life here, the flexibility and the fact that some people earn their income in 9-10 months, not 12 months full-time.
A number of us recently returned from a globalization conference sponsored by the Institute for Global Studies, UW-Milwaukee. With the recent visit of Regent Roger Axtell to campus, Stout actually is ahead of the "pack" of system campuses who all seem to be very interested in moving towards globalization of their curricula (the conference had 240 attendees.) If we are to make this initiative actually work, and not just be a superficial or token gesture in that direction, campus resources need to be put into play. The director of the International Programs should be a 100% position. More study abroad connections need to be made, which will require more resources. In line with university priority on student competencies, Goal 3.4, creating and supporting interdisciplinary activities, such interdisciplinary programs on global issues need to be established, which will require some level of resources. Stout is at the cusp of becoming THE leading system campus on this issue. The only way we can achieve, and then maintain that leadership, is through the direct commitment of budgetary resources to this priority issue.