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