Planning and Feedback Session

The purpose of this session was to gather information about significant topics which Eastern Illinois University needs to address in our planning process.

**Question:** What would make EIU first choice for faculty, staff and students?

**Responses in ranked order:**

**Students:**
- Class Size (4)
- Cost (4)
- Quality Education Programs (3)
- Personal Attention; One-on-one Relationships (1)

**Faculty:**
- FTE – Faculty to Student Ratio (3)
- Professional Development Opportunities (3)
- Faculty Freedom
- Flexibility

**Staff:**
- Benefits (1)
- Reward/Recognition Incentives (1)
- Location
- Work Environment

**All:**
- Continued Upgrades to EIU Facilities (e.g., University Union, Academic Buildings, Athletic Facilities) (4)
- Expand Academic Programs Offered (2)
- Integrated Learning (2)
- First Impression - friendly people, facilities, approachable

**Question:** What can be done to improve academic quality and scholarship across campus?

**Responses in ranked order:**

- Increase staffing (5)
- Facility enhancement – public spaces, not “offices” (5)
- Solicit funding for scholarships (4)
- Concrete action plan/program to improve writing and critical thinking (4)
- Celebrate actual, significant success publicly (2)
- Remove status quo – reward quality and decrease resources to weak programs (1)
Question: What is your hope and vision for EIU for the next 5-10 years?

Responses in ranked order:

- Commitment to more diverse culture (6)
- Remain people-centered (4)
- Increase academic standards (4)
- University focused goal - instead of each college/area having their own initiatives (2)
- Become more proactive than reactive (2)
- Positive > Negatives (news, “problems”) (2)
- Recognition of EIU (state and nation-wide)

Question: What are 2 emerging issues that you can anticipate, that EIU will have to deal with effectively if we are going to thrive in the future?

Responses in ranked order:

- Departments working together – goal students (3)
- Declining state funding vs. Increase in student fees to support institution (3)
- Growing community college enrollments – 2-year (junior/senior) transfers changes culture and expectations (2)
- Declining enrollment (1)
- Social media

Question: What is the most vital core value that EIU should preserve?

Responses in ranked order:

- Commitment to high quality teaching and education (6)
- Friendly campus (faculty/staff) (4)
- Small class size (3)
- Affordability – tuition locked for 4 years (2)
- Competitive salary/benefits in retaining faculty/staff (2)
- Preparing student to compete in a global job market and economy (2)
- Impact of integrative learning (1)
- Educate faculty and staff on the new generation of students

Question: What can be done to foster pride and loyalty among all stakeholders?

Responses in ranked order:

- More cross disciplinary event/activities to learn more about areas outside your own (4)
- More positive/good news stories (Daily Eastern News, in all news media) (4)
- “Bleed Blue” apparel worn by EIU faculty/staff/students (not other schools’ colors) (2)
- More partnerships with the broader community and alumni (beyond financial – “it will follow”) (2)
- More EIU indoctrination/orientation activities/special events for transfer students (2)
- Improved marketing strategy for the University (1)
- “Special” discounts on EIU merchandise for groups (segmented marketing) (1)
- Promote “We are all in it together”