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.

**Group: 6**
Social Sciences Faculty

**Date:**
April 8, 2011

**Tool:**
Carousel Design

**Question #1: What would make EIU first choice for faculty, staff and students?**
- Good work environment including good remuneration. ~ 4 faculty support
- Greater international diversity in student population – 4 faculty support
- Publicize more what EIU is doing well. – 3 faculty support
- A strong Honors College -3 faculty support
- Higher admissions criteria – 2 faculty support
- Obtain a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter – 1 faculty member supports
- Enhanced resources to support faculty and student conference attendance, workshops and educational programs - 1 faculty member supports

**Question #2: What can be done to improve academic quality and scholarship?**
- An environment where teaching is highly valued and research is actively promoted; require research presentations of the faculty- 5 faculty support
- Keep teaching loads less than 4/4 assignments. – 4 faculty support
- Create endowed research/teaching professorships. – 3 faculty support
- Consider raising admissions criteria. - 2 faculty support
- Foster a stronger academic culture through multiple means (faculty development, integrated learning, better communications, etc.) – 2 faculty support
- More financial support for faculty and student research, and conference travel, so that both are more fully engaged. – 2 faculty support
- Increase communications between faculty across the university to promote sharing of technical knowledge (stats and other) - 1 faculty member supports

**Question #3: What is the most vital value EIU should preserve?**
- Joint emphasis on teaching excellence and research opportunities for both students and faculty – 5 faculty support
- Quality education in small class sizes, with personal contact between students and faculty – 3 faculty support
- Maintaining an emphasis on classroom based learning coupled with being cautious not to go too far with efficiency as the dominant value in decisions on courses offered and instructional strategies – 2 faculty support

**Question #4: What is your hope and vision for EIU in the next five to ten years?**
- Provide teaching excellence and opportunities to students to conduct research in close consultation with faculty; provide opportunities and support to faculty to engage in research and service to broader community- 5 faculty support
- An institution providing a solid liberal arts/sciences foundation that reaches out to the community (broadly defined; A smaller institution relative to U of I , but offering a clear advantage in faculty student engagement. - 3 faculty support
- An institution that educates students for a rapidly changing world that requires openness to new ideas and creative thinking, while providing a supportive environment for faculty and staff development – 3 faculty support
- Obtain a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter and accreditation of all appropriate programs. – 2 faculty support
- Greater on line learning opportunities for students – 2 faculty support
- Fewer on line classes- 1 faculty supports