Planning and Feedback Session

The purpose of this discussion session was to gather information relating to what Eastern Illinois University needs to address in our planning process.

**Group:** Education & Professional Studies - Students  
**Date:** April 12, 2011  
**Tool:** Focus Group Discussion

1. **What would make EIU first choice for students, faculty, and staff?**
   a. The small number of students
   b. College of Education – EIU is known for this
   c. Special Ed. program
   d. Text Book Rentals
      i. As in being able to rent your books

1a. **What kept you at EIU?**
   a. Love the campus
      i. It’s not spread out, it’s close together
   b. The “freshman dorm” – Carman
   c. Dining halls are close together
      i. Other schools you have to walk blocks to get food
   d. Faculty being so personable
      i. Knowing their names, the support system from faculty

2. **What is one thing we need to change at EIU, that would enable us to be a great institution**
   a. No smoking on campus
      i. Or further away from doors/designated area, don’t feel people should be able to smoke on campus
   b. Escorts in Res Halls – negative
      i. Students feel like they are being babysat
     ii. want to be allowed an extended curfew
   c. Lance revamped
      i. Area is too tight
     ii. Integrate the machines instead of having girls upstairs and guys downstairs

3. **What about our history and traditions do we need to remember and preserve as we plan for the future?**
   a. Homecoming
      i. But more non-Greek events
     ii. Focus on students instead of the organizations
   b. Small class size
   c. University Foundations
      i. Class was welcoming as a freshmen
   d. Dorm set up
4. What are two emerging issues that you can participate that we will have to deal with effectively if we are going to thrive in the future?
   a. Budget cuts
      i. Losing classes
         1. Class available one time versus several times in a semester
   b. Underage drinking
      i. Part 21 coming to a close
   c. Education Programs
      i. Losing people because of the basic skills test
         1. Allow for better prep classes
      ii. All scores going up on certifications
   d. Financial Aid
      i. Allow funds and scholarships more available from alum
      ii. Map grants getting cut – going to get worse most likely

5. What is the most vital core value that EIU should preserve?
   a. Unity within the community and students
      i. We provide many services
      ii. Keeping lots of organizations available
      iii. Acceptance of diversity, i.e. LGBT
   b. Facebook
      i. Keeping students updated, i.e. power outage
   c. Alert EIU

6. What questions do you have for us to take back to the strategic planning committee?
   a. WebCT
      i. Wanted to know about the changes and the reasons for it
   b. PAWS
      i. Needs to be worked on
         1. Bigger system to support all of the students
         2. Problems of getting kicked off, not being able to log in
         3. Need for higher speed for compatibility
   c. Offer free wireless for students who live off campus
      i. “so necessary but so expensive”
   d. Parking
      i. How much we charge undergrads versus graduate students
         1. Not the proper space for parking compared to what undergrads pay
      ii. Don’t want prices to keep going up
      iii. Idea of universal parking and one flat rate for everyone
   e. Tuition increase
      i. Trying to keep it stable
   f. Size of campus
      i. Keep it small
   g. Small classes
   h. Faculty
      i. Keeping office hours
      ii. Hire faculty who are willing to help students
      iii. Staying personable
         1. Can make or break education