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: 20 Council on Academic Affairs; Council on Graduate Studies; Council on Teacher Education; Committee on Assessment of Student Learning

Date: April 21, 2011

Tool: Carousel Design

Question 1: What would make EIU first choice for faculty, staff and students?

1. Top Response: High quality academic reputation (9)
2. Second Highest Response: Competitive salaries and benefits for staff/faculty (9)
3. Third Highest Response: Faculty/student ratios – small classes (9)
4. Emphasis on teaching students (8)
5. Improve quality of life in Charleston (Bring back the Will Rogers) (5)
6. Strong research opportunities (funding, release time, travel support, etc.) (5)
7. Raise admission standards (admit retainable students) (4)
8. Ensure affordability (4)
9. Ensure that the excellence of EIU is widely known (3)
10. Competitive graduate programs (3)
11. Focused /rigorous recruitment of top students (2)
12. Outstanding placement program/results (1)
13. Collegial Environment (2)
14. Tuition cuts for faculty spouse and children at start (not seven years) (0)

Group 2: What can be done to improve academic quality and scholarship across campus?

1. Top Response: Systematic focus and improvement on across curriculum on writing and speaking and critical thinking (11)
2. Second Highest Response: Raise admission standards (9)
3. Third Highest Response: Promote academic rigor (9)
4. Improve recruitment of excellent students (5)
5. Permanent tenured/tenure-track faculty for all programs (4)
6. More scholarship $ to recruit quality students (3)
7. Hire more faculty to decrease class size (3)
8. Fund more student research (1)
9. Support faculty research (time & dollars) (3)
10. Use data to help understand recruiting and admissions standards (0)
11. Encourage interdisciplinary research (2)
12. Mastery model teaching (2)
13. Writing portfolio must be submitted to turnitin.com (1)
14. Eliminate textbook rental system (1)
15. Raising academic standards such as act/sat scores, etc.
16. Find/host opportunities to showcase faculty/student research (i.e. regional conference) (0)

Comments

- EIU has devoted significant time to assessment, but there appears to be a gap between collecting assessment data and systematically acting on discipline specific assessment data to improve areas of high impact such as critical thinking and related areas of importance.
- Admission standards should be examined in multiple ways including consideration of additional criteria instead of raising ACT scores etc. because raising ACT/SAT scores does not ensure better retention rates.
- Questions were raised about the reasons EIU does not aggressively recruit the highest performing students from Charleston High School.
Question 3: What is your hope and vision for EIU for the next 5 – 10 Years?

1. Top Response: Significant improvement in the critical thinking & communication skills (writing & speaking) of our students (9)
2. Second Highest Response: Flourishing of residential campus with careful, conscious, purposeful entry into online education & distance learning (not ad-hoc and disjointed) in order to insure the same rigor and oversight currently in place for traditional course delivery (8)
3. Third Highest Response: Upgraded facilities (academic and residential) (8)
4. More selective admissions criteria (7)
5. More use of alternative energy “green” mindset (5)
6. Graduates of EIU are highly prized (4)
7. Stable and additional state funding (3)
8. More innovations in curriculum development (2)
9. Maintaining rigor if/with outcome based funding model (1)
10. Collaborating with local resources (i.e. agricultural, more with renewable energy (1)

Question 4: What can be done to foster pride and loyalty among all stakeholders?

1. Top Response 1: Spotlight what is going on in individual departments and get the word out internally/externally (7)
2. Top Response 2: Spotlight faculty-student relationships (mentoring) and increase opportunities to showcase them by hosting regional conferences (7)
3. Second Highest Response: Develop better ties to local schools/industry/business (6)
4. Third Highest Responses: Maintain small school feel (5)
5. Change Administration attitude toward faculty contract negotiations (3)
6. Stop apologizing for not being U of I (or Northwestern, or U. of Chicago, etc) (3)
7. Increase national profile/reputation (1)
8. Enhance faculty participation in decision making (2)
9. Encourage positive collaboration between colleges and schools (2)
10. Not requiring a fee to join EIU Alumni Association? (many top institutions do not)
11. Faculty/staff club/ gathering place
12. Increase extra-curricular opportunities

Question 5: What is the most vital core value that EIU should preserve?

1. Top Response: Remain student/teaching focused (preserving small class size, faculty access & mentoring, and the scholar teacher model) (11)
2. Second Highest Response: Academic integrity (8)
3. Third Highest Response: Strong Shared governance (5)
4. Produce graduates who are responsible for global citizens (meet modern challenges) (1)
5. Value diverse perspectives of faculty and other students (1)
6. Profession integrity (2)
7. More fully integrate the humanities & arts into student goals/life/awareness (2)
8. Support teaching, research, and service (1)