

Vitalization Work Group 8
Meeting Minutes 10/17/16, 4:00pm
3108 Blair Hall

Members present: Jeff-Stowell (Chair), Ryan Hendrickson (Task Force Coordinator), Nora Small, Renee Kidd-Marshall, Britto Nathan, Samantha Boomgarden, Kelly Miller, Amy Rosenstein, and Peter Liu

The agenda was reviewed by Dr. Stowell.

Communications received were reviewed.

Dr. Rosenstein described an email communication from the Art Department regarding concerns over comments made during a work group meeting that were quoted without full context in the DEN and her response.

Dr. Stowell read an email sent from President Glassman that provided further information about micro degree programs. Micro degrees provide subject matter expert verification or certification in an area based on some completion of hours or courses but are not tied into a BA degree from a specific program.

Dr. Small asked how micro-degree programs are recognized outside of the area, but no one was able to respond with data.

Dr. Liu noted any new programs related to micro-degrees would need to follow the IBHE guidelines related to 4 year institutions requirements. Some considerations should be given to ensure the line is not blurred between the role of the university and the role of community colleges.

Dr. Kidd-Marshall gave an example from other schools outside of Illinois that were offering micro-degrees.

Ms. Boomgarden discussed an example.

Dr. Nathan affirmed the notion that there are rules about what a university can do. He noted that there are specific jobs that require certain certification of specific skill sets that are in high demand. He offered an example of employers and prospective students calling his program to inquire about specific coursework and certification.

Dean Hendrickson described the shift in graduate certifications and stated that it would be worth looking at if it gives students an advantage in the job market.

Mrs. Miller asked if students can be enrolled in a continuing ed program and be enrolled as a part-time or full-time student at the same time.

Dean Hendrickson stated that the principle endorsement program acts this way and is possible. There is also a post-bac for those studying to be a financial planner.

Dr. Nathan offered Penn State as an example with a huge number of certification programs but noted they include a system of Universities.

Dr. Liu offered and will determine if some types of undergraduate certificates or endorsements are possible at the undergraduate level

Dr. Stowell transitioned the conversation to the work group's OneDrive and data submitted from work group members based on tasks given at the previous meeting.

Dr. Stowell organized data about majors into an excel file so they could be easily viewed and queries could be performed to help answer future questions. He explained that he organized data by growth to demonstrate how data may be organized and analyzed. He also noted analysis should look at real numbers as some growth percentages may not clearly represent real numbers. For example, a jump from 2 to 4 students is a 100% growth increase but that only represents 2 students, so interpretation may be needed.

There is a need to look at data for growth opportunities.

Dr. Small expressed a need for a different or additional descriptive statistical analysis beyond growth change data

Dr. Rosenstein commented that the display, as it is, is still useful because it contains actual numbers of students.

Additional comments and questions were raised by the work group.

Dr. Rosenstein asked if looking at changes in enrollment by college would be useful as it is possible that programs' enrollments may not have actually dropped but simply been rearranged when students declared different majors or programs options. An example would be Biology. Did enrollment decrease as programs like Pre-Med increased? Is the shift due to new programs that rely heavily on course offerings in other majors? Are these just shifts within colleges and so do we need to look at colleges and then program offerings within colleges?

Dr. Nathan indicated that there are students who are in these types of programs that do not have a specific attachment to a department.

Dr. Kidd-Marshall noted that there are numerous possibilities within the health field that are tied to specific professional courses but departments depend on each other to meet all the requirements for graduation.

The workgroup decided we need to brainstorm how best to evaluate the data, supplemental data needed, and how best identify and evaluate different program options to meet our goals which include:

1. New or Modified Programs (undergraduate and graduate majors)
2. Completion Programs (for adult learners and community college students)
3. Identifying Signature Programs
4. Micro Degrees.

Dr. Stowell transitioned the conversation to our mission to identify different types of programs and consider the additional data on the OneDrive.

Dean Hendrickson reviewed the data he shared with the group on OneDrive. Dean Hendrickson explained national data on graduate admissions, an article on graduate enrollment, first choice graduate programs at EIU, and newly implemented and forthcoming graduate programs at EIU. He discussed national trends relative to local changes and indicated that the 5 year data was more telling specific to trends in student interest.

Dr. Kidd-Marshall shared budget appropriations for universities and recent IBHE publications to provide insight in to workforce shortage. Health studies area subjects are in high demand and are a high need.

Dr. Liu stated that IBHE could be a steering force.

Mrs. Miller reviewed the data she submitted to the shared space. Data she included shows file of commonly searched majors, admissions data (what was selected as a major, conversions, and yields), and graduation data. She also shared information about college grads (from forbes) and career information.

Dr. Stowell then presented information about new undergraduate programs in development.

Dr. Stowell transitioned the conversation to questions and comments from the group.

Brainstorming for future meeting included:

What other data do we want?

Need to establish criteria, what should be included as we discuss each area of the task given to us.

Data on community college feeder schools and their programs that may result in completion programs would be useful.

Health studies and programs in the sciences should be reviewed for possible additions.

Dr. Small encouraged looking at the data we need to consider humanities and how to nurture those programs.

Dean Hendrickson discussed first choice at the graduate level for research areas and how to create or support programs that feed into graduate studies.

Dr. Liu noted IBHE requirements and our mission, specifically the significance of our foundation in liberal arts and has appreciation liberal arts programming.

Several comments were made that reinforced the notion that we want to present EIU as a liberal arts institution but we want to show people we can have students leave with jobs.

Dr. Nathan pointed out we are a dream team and should start dreaming. We need to consider what we are looking to in the future.

Dr. Liu stated we are a place for all students and we can meet their needs.

Start dreaming...

Mrs. Miller added we need data to start looking at growth that feed graduate programs as we define ourselves as a liberal arts school we need show how that translates. She will bring community college feeder information.

Dr, Liu will report back on IBHE citizen agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30

Minutes recorded and submitted by Amy Rosensten