

Student Focus Group – Student Recreation Center Employees (approximately 70) 11/6/10

Is becoming “the premier public liberal arts and sciences institution in the nation” a compelling vision statement for you? Why or why not?

- It is unclear what that statement means.
- We did not choose to come to Truman because it was a liberal arts college so the phrase is not what attracts students to Truman.
- Affordability is what attracts students to come here – affordability needs to be in the vision statement
- The academic reputation as a good school is important but not the liberal arts

What is the most important priority for Truman over the next five years?

- Affordability
- Keeping enrollment stable
- Keep facilities renovated and keep the current projects on scheduled as promised
- Need more scholarships for out-of-state students – make it affordable for students from all across the nation and that will increase Truman’s reputation nationally
- Stay open to facility expansion (i.e. Greek Housing)
- Continue to fund out-of-class learning opportunities like summer trips, activities, etc.
- Need to keep funding strong for a vibrant student life – students won’t come or stay if you don’t
- Make sure that there is a balance between liberal arts and the skills that you need to be successful in the real world
- Need to provide more resources for student organizations.
- Class sizes no larger than 30 are important
- You could have bigger classes if you made them on-line
- Need to get and stay up to date with technology and ensure that we are using the technology we have

What assumptions about the next five years are reasonable for us to make regarding budget, staffing, technology, political realities, student needs and expectations, and practices in higher education?

Budget:

- decreasing

Staffing:

- decreasing

Technology:

- ipads used in the classroom
- Need more smart classrooms

- Evaluate effectiveness of smart classrooms – be sure professors know how to use them to the fullest capacity
- Using smart pens in high school
- Also need to get faculty up-to-date on software

Political Realities: (no comments)

Student Needs and Expectations:

- Sister who is looking at colleges right now reports much better recreational facilities – we can't compete with resort style places at other universities
- We need a pool – pool in Pershing is not available to students because of the inconvenient hours
- Need more information and help regarding applying and getting accepted to graduate schools
- Need to have better advising beginning with the freshmen year and then throughout college to keep students on track
- Students need more support during the Study Abroad process. We discourage students from taking these opportunities because the process is so difficult and there is little support from the Study Abroad office. Due dates are not well communicated and there are items due when you are out-of-country.
- Truman needs to make better use of faculty evaluations to attract and keep students in the future. Don't ask our opinions if nothing changes even after years and years of faculty members getting the same negative evaluations.

Higher Education Practices:

- Requiring internships is a good idea if the University helps us find them

More or Other:

In your opinion, what would be the characteristics of a successful strategic plan for Truman for 2011-15?

- Specific, understandable, measurable.