

SCHOOL OF ARTS & LETTERS
November 18, 2010

FIRST QUESTION

Current vision statement is content free doesn't mean anything no specific goals just keep looking at current indicators like how many go to grad school--what about our values other than market driven--concerned that we are in factory mode, cranking out grads

Do need to emph that we are a lib arts institution concerned that has been eroded in the past few years

Intense interaction between students and faculty should be a focus -- some concern about online courses may be diluting this. Thinks that signals we don't think it's important

What does premiere mean

Some consensus over the years what we should be doing -- stick to what we say we think is important

One person thinks it is a useful statement in terms of aspirational--gives room to make an argument for what we do--the closer we get to best practices in lib arts

We could build in specific measurements like student research grad school attendance

QUESTION TWO

Protecting/preserving who we are our rigor what our students value liken human interaction care and attention from professors

Protect our core mission even in shrinking resources. Concerned about money making focus

We can't tread water forever. Maybe need to rethink how we organize what we deliver in terms of curriculum 4-1-4 etc. Look at what other lib arts schools do

QUESTION THREE

Technology will continue to be emph outside university that it's our savior. Question if we can afford this

Budget will shrink. Staff will be smaller. Political realities will worsen state will expect more with less

Students will keep expecting more. Financial aid better deal, need us to fill in what they didn't get in HS. They want more technology for fun not just classes

Higher Ed. Keep doing the new thing esp with technology this would require a major software investment and training for faculty similar to SMART training and no help for faculty who teach after 5:00

At least three people voiced strong philosophical opposition to online courses--not just the investment but does it really work. Is it who we are?

Our enrollment might remain pretty good as long as the economy is bad

A lot of people are going to be retiring at some point--need to plan for this

Private money will become more important will need to involve academic units more

QUESTION FOUR

Don't sacrifice complexity for brevity

Room to motivate people to be creative and try new things

Fill in the specifics of what we're looking for in terms of lib arts and premier

Less detailed than last plan--don't need to have specifics. People can work on that as we go.

One we can follow -- one that is used

One you can post and measure how were going and refer to along the way

Have a direction but not specifics

Several people emph inspirational

What are we being strategic about?

Something that unifies campus. Rooted in mission. Inspires us. Doesn't occasion cynicism and generates buy-in. Not just content but language. Make it clear how initiatives support mission.

Define what we mean by being the best--what should a Truman grad be like? Use feedback from employers study abroad families and teachers internship supervisors etc. Not just looking at the numbers but more about qualities they have. We are data driven but must balance that with intangibles.

Present a united front about who we are and what the level of quality is that we have