

Student Activities Board SPAC Feedback
November 15, 2010

Here is the feedback I received from SAB members last night at their General Meeting. Please let me know if I need to define / explain something more.

- 1) Is becoming “the premier public liberal arts and sciences institution in the nation” a compelling vision statement for you? Why or why not?
 - a. Yes and No (consensus around the room)
 - i. Every liberal arts school says this – the statement is too general
 - ii. Cliché statement, “compelling” is overdone
 - iii. Vision statement needs to be more unique
 - b. Define premiere
 - i. Compelling but not realistic because of Truman’s affordability
 - ii. State doesn’t equal cheap, public does imply affordable
 - iii. Do not lower standards even though it is affordable
 - c. Truman is premiere- good for area- we don’t really have national status though
 - i. Strive to become known better within the Midwest and then nationally
 - ii. First steps should be our area (Missouri), the mid-west and then nationally
 - d. Concrete goals, more national recognition – not very well known
 - e. Give a self evaluation within the vision statement instead of a national comparison that is meaningless
 - f. 1982- NW MS we received national attention for MAE award (changed us to public liberal arts institution), becoming national is the next step for Truman.
- 2) What is the most important priority for Truman over the next five years?
 - a. Maintain high quality despite budget costs
 - b. Helping students get ready for the “real world” -- job and grad school placement
 - i. Truman should be a foot in the door when job searching and people haven’t heard of it
 - ii. Have more support for finding a job / going on to grad school from Truman
 - iii. Have more resources for after graduation
 - c. Keep Truman affordable and high quality
 - i. Continue to be selective and affordable
 - d. Gain national prominence – recruit outside of MO more (more national and regional prominence)
 - e. More alumni presence
 - i. Will bring money into the school – continue to
- 3) 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?
 - a. Tuition should increase- Excellence is not cheap
 - i. Have good / excellent professors
 - ii. Replace professors when they leave
 - b. Academic advising- some really struggle and we have teachers that do not even know us, better teachers- not better technologies
 - i. Vital for the University
 - ii. Advisors need to be trained
 - iii. Advisors should be able to advise – know how to help you pick your classes – need advisors to help us reach our goals and graduation
 - c. Truman is behind regarding technology (our network, smart classrooms, Baldwin vs. Violette)
 - i. Maintaining our technology (fix broken stuff) – ex: a printer has been broken in MG for almost a year/ BNB printer is always broken / BT only has one printer that is always jammed – when you call to get technology fixed it takes a long time
 1. Need to fix the equipment that is broken
 2. We need to bring everything up to the par
 - ii. It is great that we have some new technology like the smart classrooms; however, there needs to be training on how to use technology

1. Faculty can't use the new technology
 2. Too much time is wasted in classes, because professors do not know how to use the technology
- d. eBooks! Make it an option for students
 - e. Debates – some students felt that the food is not up to par and others thought the food is fine on campus
 - i. food quality is behind regarding health issues - local food
 - ii. improve quality of food in the dorms
 - iii. Main Street Market is way behind – limited options / not comparable to schools are sizes and their student union food options
 - f. More school pride
 - i. Check out other schools that are our size to see how they have improved their school's spirit-
 - ii. Creating and maintaining traditions on this campus
 1. Making traditions and then keeping them alive – making students more aware of traditions
 2. The hickory stick does not count
 3. Traditions will help people care about the school – bring more alumni back to participate in these
 4. We need traditions! (Streaking, donuts at one, dates)
 - iii. Building the Camaraderie
 1. Tailgating – having alumni come back // wet campus – wet football stadium
 2. . Loosen up as a campus- smoking ban?
 3. School spirit- regarding sports- building the atmosphere- People need to enjoy games
 - iv. Do we have too many athletic teams for the size of school?
 - g. Environmental concerns are getting big.
- 4) In your opinion, what would be the characteristics of a successful strategic plan for Truman 2011-2015?
- a. Professors need to be better before the technology- or hire teachers with fresh perspectives
 - b. Regional and National recognition
 - c. Affordable
 - d. Sustainability
 - e. Atmosphere – professors, campus buildings and environment (aesthetic appeal and functional buildings)
 - i. Making all buildings functional and up to date
 - ii. Drastic difference for students who mainly work / learn out of BH vs. VH
 - f. Technology
 - g. Career and / or grad school placement – more support and resources
 - h. Effective uses of money—watching how we spend money
 - i. Maintaining and creating traditions
 - j. Building school spirit
 - k. Bringing Alumni Back