

UCS Answers to Strategic Planning Questions

November 3, 2010

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

- No, it is vague, wishy-washy and political-speak. Sounds more like a campaign slogan.
- How can it be compelling when most of our own employees & constituents don't know that it is our vision?
- Too lofty
- Is it realistic to want to be premier in the NATION?
- Not compelling unless we have measures so that we know when we've attained it or are at least getting closer to attaining it.

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

- Recruitment & retention
- Budget concerns & priorities, including compensation
- Offer quality education
- Focus on transfer students
- Attaining a work/life balance across campus (students, faculty & staff)

❸ 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: It will continue to decline
- Staffing: Also will decrease. Will be expected to do more work with fewer resources. May lose quality as well-qualified individuals chose to leave for more profitable positions and their positions are not filled.
- Technology: Students will demand more, that we be cutting-edge. We will have to be more Apple/MAC friendly
- Political Realities: We are likely to make less progress when dealing with the conservative backlash.
- Student Needs and Expectations: Will continue to increase. Greater mental/physical health issues.
- Greater need for financial aid and on-campus jobs.
- Higher Education Practices:
- We could see our quality of education decline as we lose quality faculty/staff.
- Going to be a demand for career-based undergraduate education.

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

- Should have clearly defined, attainable goals.
- Should be well-funded.
- Should be focused & concise.
- Should acknowledge the necessity of collaboration. Should encourage flexibility, change, and follow-through.