Access Feedback from February 8, 2012 Charrette

Academic Excellence

- Continue tradition of academic excellence while creating a more accessible MSU will need great balance & awareness.

Curriculum

- Offer art classes to non-majors and easier accessibility.
- Able to minor in art or marketing even if not major in art/biz.
- Offer literature classes to all students rather than just lit majors.
- Increase night and summer offerings.
- Outcomes #1 - Increase the number of degrees, especially PhD’s, as well as the number of enrolled students.

Distance Learning

- Offer programs with 2 year distance component – 2 year residential.
- Consider requiring all MSU on-campus students to graduate with at least one distance course. (this will prepare them for the future)
- Please consider technological limitations in rural areas when including rurally located distance students to give them equal access to offerings.
- Access to distance learning, – easier – more efficient.
- Define our approach to online learning? How can we leverage strengths and minimize risks? Is online learning a substitute or compliment to physically present learning? Much more online opportunities. Students learn in different ways & students who are distant or part time w/ families have more access to education. What about ½ class, ½ online. 7 weeks in classroom. 7 weeks online. More options for alternate learning . Not all want to sit and be lectured at.

Diversity

- When increasing diversity, in addition to Native American and International students, I would like to see an increase in racial and cultural diversity within the U.S.
- Recognize the diversity besides race....age, religion, poli, ability, gender, sex.
- Increase international students by 20%.
- 15% of Montana High School students are native American. Let’s get to 15% at MSU.
- This goal should include increasing the number of International students.
- Is attracting a greater number of out-of-state students a good thing for a state university? How much will Native American population increase? How much
will international student enrollment grow? Every university is doing both of these. What is our plan to make MSU more attractive?

Infrastructure/Capacity

- How do we physically deal w/ increased access? +1 Where will we put all the students in classrooms? w/ faculty?
- This goal is not at all aligned with reality. Learn the lessons from Biology about carrying capacity. More students WILL NOT solve our problems. We don’t have enough space, staff, teaching resources...Let’s do a better job with the students we have.
- Access for all students to all parts of campus? Disability aides in ALL buildings, ie, Linfield.
- What resources will fuel/support these growth goals? We are at capacity, aren’t we? i.e. 250 students in one Freshman classroom.
- How are you going to accommodate these increased numbers? Academic buildings, resources, housing?
- When increasing the population, how will these extra students be accommodated in terms of housing, class space, and parking?
- Create the infrastructure first! We need more classrooms! And on campus housing!
- With the goals of increasing student population, what is the university’s plan to accommodate them with, 1) space – classrooms, dorms; 2) teacher/student ratio.
- Zero is said about equal access for students w/disabilities, or the importance of universal design in the learning environment.
- How will the university be dealing with an increase population? Will housing increase? Will MSU expand its classrooms by A) building more?, B) building outward?
- I agree that the student population should not be increased without ensuring there is infrastructure to meet that change. I say this from experience of being an international from a very big city.
- We need to start to work with the students here first before we increase the pop. of students.
- Where are we going to put the incoming students? Halls are full now! (classrooms and residence halls)
- If we increase distance (or for that matter, local) student environments, will we see a commensurate increase in student & faculty support resource? PLEASE?!

Research

- Get students involved in research experiences as soon as possible, including those that take advantage of opportunities in our backyard of Yellowstone.
- This is redundant w/ success. DROP this one and add Research!
• Excellence in research. Need these words. For outcome 1, an increase in tenure track faculty is required. These faculty also need to be research active to achieve 20% increase in graduate students.
• Does a 20% increase of grad students allow a 40% increase of student-faculty publications? (need to match these)

Student Support/Success

• Provide enhanced/increased scholarships to increase access.
• How does this help low-income populations? Maybe increase percentage of need-based aid students?
• We need a system to monitor metrics and identify students at risk before they fail.
• Increasing student numbers should not be the goal. Improving the outcomes of those who enroll should be.
• We need to increase the contact of tenure track faculty w/ students. There are too many adjuncts here, and that affects student success.
• What about non-traditional students? Access for non-traditional students is tricky at best – barriers include childcare, times courses are offered, availability of aid, feeling “out of place.”
• I would like to see the success rates of students who have low H.S. GPA’s in college. I can’t imagine those with lower HS GPA’s are as apt to succeed at MSU. Everyone should have access, but they should earn it.

Student Readiness/Admission Standards/Increased Enrollment

• Establish higher minimum acceptance standards. Spend less time on remediation and more time on enrichment of students who came to MSU ready to learn with precollege courses like math already completed.
• Raising tuition and raising admission standards reinforces each other and will give us more students who are better prepared.
• Shouldn’t we focus on retaining our current students before we try to bring in even more?! We need to have STANDARDS!
• How will you increase enrollment while raising the required GPA. What change will draw an increase in bright students?
• Raising tuition and raising admission standards reinforces each other and will give us more students who are better prepared. Access will be compromised if BOR moves to a funding model rewarding SCH completed. We will need to raise admissions requirements & give struggling students fewer chances to recover.
• We should think about making sure our students who come to MSU go to the right campus to meet their interests and abilities. Not all students will thrive at a top tier research university- students should know how MSU-Bozeman is different from other campuses and choose the one that is right for them.
• For #6, will MSU become harder to get enrolled or will it be the same and practically accept anything that moves? So do we want to become more prestigious?
• How will our open enrollment impact #6?
• Increased enrollment = administrative process efficiencies, admissions, registrar, student success – Business office?
• Incorporate accessible 2 yr programs at MSU – As the students are better prepared, non-trad students need to get up to speed in order to compete and succeed.
• Increase admission standards which will increase enrollment and retention. Raise tuition.
• Offer to the students enrolled with the right prerequisites. What/where is funding coming from? Does this work with sister schools/transfer students?

Student Retention

• Retention requires resources! Need resources to attain risk students.
• Retention = more resources!
• We should tie some of the outcomes to faculty. We need more tenure track faculty, and we need to retain them. This will help retention and graduation rates.

In General

• Support goal number 5, which is doable with resources. Thxs
• As we articulate our out of state/country goals for access, we need to state our commitment to Montana resident access as clearly. Remember: we are the land grant institution!
• How does the Museum of the Rockies factor into access? MOR allows all learners an opportunity to engage informally w/ lifelong learning.
• Does common course numbering & automatic transferability within MUS impact the quality of a MSU Bozeman degree?
• How will funding be impacted by #3?
• Easier collaboration between MUS schools. – efficiency
• With increased graduates, where will they find jobs in Montana?
• Combine with success goal.
• Add nontraditional to #2.
• Increase the size & funding for diversity, awareness, office.
• We need more high quality graduate students.
• Isn’t the current # of undergrads already 30% or more non-res?
• Does access = enrollment? Expand partnerships w/ statewide groups to bring MUS & MSU resources to Montana. Higher education might mean increase subject knowledge via education, not a degree.
• Increasing nonresident undergrads earned us a big budget cut from the Regents. Do they still have the blinders on?
• Access (& others) Many community members, new Bozeman arrivals-seeking a university town, alumni (all over the world) need a way to re-engage for learning at MSU. Several have asked me, “why don’t they allow us to audit MSU courses?” So – Use technology to allow individuals to register, pay money and audit high appeal courses, such as geology, photography, Montana history, literature, business courses in person or on line. 1) Benefits increase profitability of existing activities at MSU; 2) Increase access to excellence at MSU; 3) Engage people to learn and get more engaged; 4) Increase affinity to MSU; 5 Increase satisfaction and impact by professors. THANKS!