

Murray State Plan "Achievement, Endeavor, and Hope" – Student Success Initiative

Town Hall Meeting 10/29 2 PM Wrather Auditorium

President Davies introduced David Burdett, Interim Director of Facilities.

President Davies thanked everyone for helping to develop the Strategic Plan. Process is as important as the Plan. Committee members are representatives: view them as representatives to voice all community members' ideas and to "boil down" the ideas of all members of the community. "When we admit a student, how do we ensure that the student will be successful?" "What does it mean to be successful?" "Globalization of the marketplace" "speed of technological advancement" "the notion of average is dead" "average" = "left behind in the economy" – "niche" – "at the end of college, we went to the Career Center; our students have to go out and invent their job" "how do we ensure that we are teaching them how to . . . interpret . . . how to use knowledge . . . how to communicate those thoughts and ideas across a broad array of constituencies" -- Thomas Friedman – "narrow it down to four or five ideas . . . easy task"

April for Plan

"Murray State University is the University of Choice"

"Promoting a dynamic and diverse university community committed to Student Success"

"Aspirational" "Goals and Objectives" "what will make us stand out"

"Measures"

Align with QEP, Federal Scorecard, CPE

Themed Questions: The following are the topics/questions raised:

What are the current admission standards? First year: unconditional min 18 ACT ENG, 19 MAT, 20 REA – top half of class, 3.0 gpa; conditional 2 of 3 requirements w remediation

Proportion uncon to cond: 1/3 of class conditional admits

Research: remed 1 class – chance of graduation drops; 3 classes – drops considerably

Trends –retention over time; grad rates over time – trend up for need for remediation, trend down for graduation rates

For everyone – 53% 6-year grad rate now – is it dropping? Retention and grad rates are high for uncond admits – among highest in the state; more cond admits over time

Mission of Murray State – Public Univs – raise admission standards – is that in accordance with our mission? Drop-outs = significant amount of debt; students who are not college-ready – remedial courses

– drop out with high student debt ; How can we serve that student population without that debt?
Remedial – need restrictions on courses that they can take – advising needed

Student success not just graduating students – what kind of jobs are they getting? Getting into grad school? National recognition? Awards? “transformational” – what are we doing that ‘s transformational? What does “school of choice” mean? Does it mean because we will let them in with a 16 ACT? “School of choice” – competing schools – what are they doing? Do we know?

What are indicators of success once they graduate? beyond CPE #s, Fed Scorecard – how do we measure success among our graduates?

What are the different options or indicators? Graduate school? Awards – Rhodes, Marshalls, Gates, etc. – are we competitive with the other regionals? – at another school, Office of Devt within honors college – line up students with opportunities – we don’t have anything like that – more needed in internship – undergrad research – student development

Another regional: Program for cond admits – benchmarks that must be met first semester – raise admission standards – 18 county service region – fulfilling needs – balance these – strategies and plan to meet needs within region

Resources – advising – training advisors – finding people who are good at it and training them, rather than having those who aren’t good at it – having people to walk with students through process – takes resources – takes people for whom that’s their job – people in the colleges who advise them through process – Faculty or staff? Could be either. Advising doesn’t have to be in academic field. Full time advising people in each college.

Students could play a role in mentoring, guiding, helping with community atmosphere – leadership roles for students, and mentoring and guidance for students who need it. First year leaders, students, student success seminar pilot, coordination of resources isn’t there to support all of those resources – great things going on – communication and coordination isn’t there

Coordination by academic area? Within FYL? Colleges? Departments? FYL was coordinated by FYE coordinator – now through Retention – does each college need to be doing it? Do we need a central person? We don’t know what’s happening across the street – not using our resources the best way.

Students who need remediation don’t meet requirements – community college of the past handled this

Transition – 1 hr/week, overload [in some programs]– either in program, or somewhere else – “can’t do it all” – make it 2 hrs, or 3 hrs – “so that everyone’s getting the same thing” – emphasis on students who are struggling – students who fail Transitions have a 3% 6-year graduation rate – we know that there’s an issue there – what do we want to focus on? Where do we want to put our resources?

Good ideas – everyone a little piece of it to do a full-time job – we don’t know who we want to serve (top, middle, conditional) – what we want to do with our resources

Recruitment – set standard of what we want to be – students = money – mandate to serve 18 counties – find students who meet requirements – 17-18 is what we can get out of the high schools – whack away at bottom = lost tuition revenue – we need to talk about admissions requirements and recruitment

of students graduating from high school in the 18 county service region is not enough to sustain a university;

Other colleges in state accepting/admitting students into associate programs – specialized academies – that's where the growth numbers are in some of the other univs in the state

Good students want to go where top students go – MSU is not investing to draw top students here – another regional univ's Honors College budget is substantially higher than MSU's; increased resources in HON College at other regional potentially reducing pool of top students

Resource issue: where are we going to put resources? HON – we are program, not college, as at some of the other regionals – should HON be a college here?

Scholarships for best students – marginal cost to university to recruit good students

How can we distinguish ourselves from other universities? In what ways are we unique?

Other state univs offering scholarships at middle school ac team competitions and the like

How early are univs recruiting students? MSU starts in soph year; other schools start younger – resource issue – Duke TIP begins in 7th Grade

Racer Academy – 700+ students – traditional and ag program -- regional and across the state – about 30% of RA students enroll at MSU – expansion – Thoroughbred Academy – on campus starting next year – regional Racer Academy students: 53% enroll

Commonwealth Honors Academy – 47% come to Murray – great recruiting tool – 62% of CHA students who do enroll here say it is because of CHA – they receive housing discount – bringing resources in

Dashboard – what student success looks like – life skills, talk to people, time management; getting a job in an area he studies and prepares for – then, where do we put our resources to meet those dashboard goals?

Resources: we have to spend money to make money

Tool to measure why top students don't come to MSU? Is it no HON college? Is it \$\$\$? Is it lack of awards? Our students – bottom are expensive – top expensive too -- do we need to redistribute academic scholarship dollars? Are the middle students the ones we need to be going after? Top students being bought by other institutions. little bit of all of these.

#1-3 reason students come: academic program, financial aid, close to home

Advising – even 1st Gen low income students have ability to go on for PhD – 1st year trying to keep them in school; 2nd year need advising on career opps, develop competitive resume for their career goals – currently they are clueless ; all students need that kind of coaching all the way through – we would be distinctive if we were doing this. Higher end groomed – bunch of kids in the middle need that kind of grooming.

What kind of inst do we want to be? Resources not there to take care of students at both ends of the spectrum. Focus on upper end of the spectrum? good solid students? acceptance up? Down? – we are not an ivy league, but we can be selective

2nd year = forgotten year – 2nd year seminar – by college? By whom? Career/prof grooming would be placed there.

What does MSU mean by “university of choice”?