Access & Completion 21st Century Vision Subcommittee Meeting Notes:

January 23rd, 2013

Carol Tressolini

* Works on our distance learning initiatives
* Currently focusing on MOOCs

Rob Bruce – Director of the William and Ida Friday Center

* Came from University of Texas – Austin
* Friday Center does a lot of continuing education programs
* Online education
* One of the missions of the Friday Center – To benefit people from all across the state – not just UNC-CH students

Dr. Billy Cannaday

* UVA leader for access/serving non-traditional students and online education

Similarities between UNC and UVA according to him:

* Similar mission to serve the public
* Similar strategic focus (going through a strategic planning process right now as well)
  + 7 working groups including “what is the role of the public university in the next decade”
  + Other deals with how to use technology as a learning tool
* Planning process well underway, hoping to have it done by August
* Similar challenges related to affordability, access, and responsiveness to the top priorities of your state
* Website – council on Virginia’s future – bipartisan - http://www.future.virginia.gov/

3 degrees for part time students at UVA

* RN/BN degree
* Engineering degree
* Bachelors in interdisciplinary studies – This was a liberal arts degree but that didn’t work well with the conservative Board of Visitors that they had to appeal to
* Graduated over 300 students through these three part time programs
* Classes are on weekends and at nights
* Some are hybrid classes (online and face to face)

Kel asked a great question about admissions of these folks

* Have to come in with at least 60 credits
* Some have just completed associate degrees at community colleges
* If not they’re asked initially to take classes at a community college first to ensure they’re prepared
* Biggest challenge – writing skills
* The non-traditional learners come back and have made a very thoughtful decision to be there. They’re there for themselves and really want to learn. Hold faculty to very high standards (benefits everybody)
* Traditional undergrads often try to get in the classes to learn from their experiences

How do they create a legitimate undergrad experience for a part-time student?

* Bring them to the campus for orientation
* Learn the history of the school, walk the lawn etc.
* Hear about what a UVA experience means
* Encourage them to see themselves as normal UVA students (Have the opportunity to study abroad, do capstone – final thesis- project just like many traditional undergrads)
* They try to use as many tenured faculty as possible
* Students are eligible to be a part of the Raven’s Society (Similar to OGF here)
  + Took 7 years for them to gain eligibility

Partner with community colleges

* Have programs at community college in northern Virginia
* Have students down in Tidewater
* Community college near Charlottesville

Now launching a totally online program for medical

These students are not counted either way for the state cap on in-state vs. out of state students

* But most part time students are in-state students
* All BIS students are in-state

Now at the break-even point

* Had to get the numbers up

UVA is revamping its internal funding model to make it less centralized

Employees can use their employee benefits to pay for this

Steve Farmer asked how other students pay for it:

* It varies
* And therefore they vary in how long they take to finish (3-6 years usually)
* Typically funded on their own
* The university does not provide any institutional need-based aid to these students

3% per year growth target for the program

It seems like the bulk of students take their classes at community colleges around the state with UVA professors that drive to the community college

* But if it allows they’re able to come take classes at UVA
* $2000 per year

Steve Farmer says what we lack is the flexibility to do a program like UVA’s

* “If you want to major in history or in poli sci we only have one way for you to do each, and it’s our way”

However we implement this we’ve got to do it in a way that works here which inevitably have some differences from the UVA model, but regardless it’s a missed opportunity if we don’t do something about it

UVA is attracting a different type of elite student through this program compared to traditional elite students