

## CONVERSATION NOTES – STRATEGIC STATEMENT DISCUSSIONS – FALL 2009

### Big 5 (Sunday, September 27, 2009)

Comments relate to version 7.5, an interim revision based on all comments received to the version posted on the blog.

Members of the “Big 5” committees were asked to consider the interim revision of the strategic statements in their roles as faculty members and with respect to their committees’ charges and responsibilities.

Comments:

#### [Core Values]

- The language “belies” the arts; we don’t hear about the arts, but do hear about sciences and social sciences. Maybe we can include something about the arts in the core value of “Social Responsibility?” There is a particular type of expression in the arts, perhaps a more appropriate term is “aesthetics.” Or perhaps we include the arts in the core value of “the liberal arts” and delineate the dimensions of the liberal arts in that core value?
- The “liberal arts” core value does not mention our faculty’s commitment; it mentions I.S. but not what other teaching we do. The commitment to teaching and I.S. are not the same thing; what students take away is not just encompassed in their I.S. (I hope). What faculty do in their research aids I.S., but does it have effect in other ways?

#### [Mission Statement]

- There should be more specific reference to what faculty do in the mission statement. What do faculty do with students? Also include it in the core value of “Community of Learners.” We all are engaged in the pursuit of knowledge in common.
- As a statement of purpose it should state why we do what we do, not how. Specifically, our involvement in creating new knowledge and insight should either be a core value or more prominent in the mission statement.
- We provide students with opportunities to do these sorts of things more than other places do.
- I don’t see diversity in the mission statement language here. I think redressing legacies of exclusion is important.
- In the mission statement, do we say “as a leader?”
- We should be graduating students who just don’t know things but who apply them toward supporting our human endeavor.
- Should our mission statement be different or like the best liberal arts colleges? We want to show we are a member of a group.
- We should position ourselves to actively seek diversity (“Welcome” is passive).

#### [General]

- We do take a broad starting range of students – the idea of what we achieve with these students is not captured in the statements.
- Should it be “liberal arts” or “liberal arts and sciences?”
- What we do with our students is a feature. We hold them to high expectations (our former language of “an honors program for all students”).