

## **Academic Affairs Office Strategic Directions and Priorities, 2006-2011**

### **Student Success**

Direction: UM-Helena develops and offers instructional programs and student services that help students succeed in reaching their goals.

Priorities for action:

- Assist students in balancing life and school demands.
  - **OFFER COLLEGE SUCCESS EACH SEMESTER, INCLUDING SUMMER**
  - **PROVIDE MULTIPLE ACCESS POINTS FOR STUDENTS, INCLUDING NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS**
  - **OFFER SHORT-TERM COURSES IN LIFE SKILLS FOR CREDIT**
  - **INCREASE ON-LINE OFFERINGS**
  - **CONTINUE TO PURSUE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS**
- Provide transition services for students from application through graduation.
  - **INCREASE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH FACULTY**
  - **IMPROVE PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH FACULTY**
  - **PROVIDE FACULTY ADVISING TRAINING**
  - **OFFER ON-LINE ADVISING**
- Develop and evaluate quality educational programs.
  - **IMPLEMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**
  - **RESEARCH THROUGH DOL AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SURVEYS FOR NEEDED PROGRAMS**
  - **WORK CLOSELY WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEES**
- Increase access to student resource areas for the varying student populations.
  - **ENCOURAGE AIRPORT CAMPUS INCLUSION**
  - **CROSS SCHEDULING BETWEEN DONALDSON AND AIRPORT CAMPUS**

### **Connect with the Community**

Direction: UM-Helena builds connections with a broad range of groups to respond to the diverse needs of the communities we serve.

Priorities for action:

- Work collaboratively with business and industry, local and state governments, community organizations, and educational partners to accomplish common goals for statewide economic development.
  - **HIRE POSITION TO BUILD ON EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
  - **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS**
  - **CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; NON-PROFITS; AND STATE AGENCIES FOR TRAINING**
- Create communication avenues with the surrounding community.
  - **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY FROM DEAN/CEO**
  - **MONTHLY INSERT FOR UPDATES ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**
  - **PROVIDE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES AT REMOTE LOCATIONS**

- Fully develop internships and service learning opportunities for students.
  - **INCREASE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE SERVICE LEARNING AS A COMPONENT**
  - **EDUCATE FACULTY ON SERVICE LEARNING**
- Identify and incorporate community interests/ business and industry needs in future planning.
  - **USE ADVISORY COMMITTEES**
  - **MBAC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
  - **NON-PROFITS (FLORENCE CRITTENDON)**
- Foster faculty, staff, and student involvement in community organizations and events.
  - **ENSURE FACULTY INVOLVEMENT WITH STATEWIDE COUNCILS**

### **Create Access**

Direction: UM-Helena makes access to higher education possible for the communities we serve.

Priorities for action

- Develop alternative delivery methods for courses and degree obtainment including distance learning, evening and weekend offerings and collaboration with other educational institutions to enhance access to higher education.
  - **PROVIDE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES AT REMOTE LOCATIONS**
  - **HAVE TWO EVENING/WEEKEND TRADES PROGRAMS BY FALL 2011**
  - **PROVIDE WELDING CERTIFICATION TRAINING OVER SUMMER**
  - **PROVIDE SPRING ENTRY FOR HIGH DEMAND TRADES PROGRAMS**
- Lessen the financial burden of higher education through the development and marketing of scholarship opportunities.
  - **SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS**
  - **REQUEST SUPPORT THROUGH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS**
- Improve access and services to people with disabilities.
  - **PROVIDE TRAINING FOR FACULTY**
  - **DEVELOP COURSES FOR PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH THE DISABLED**

### **Develop Resources**

Directions: UM-Helena proactively develops its fiscal, capital, technological and human resources to ensure the effective, efficient management of quality programs and services.

Priorities for action

- Improve technological infrastructure and services including electronic mail, wireless networks, and computers.
  - **SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS**
- Develop criteria for managing enrollment to sustain the quality of our programs and services including marketing and development.
  - **ENSURE FACULTY REPRESENTATION ON INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES**
  - **PROVIDE FACULTY TRAINING ON THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

- Develop staffing and salary structure plans.
  - **DEVISE AND IMPLEMENT NEW ADJUNCT PAY STRUCTURE WHICH REWARDS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**
- Expand the college's fiscal resource base through grants, private funding, and entrepreneurial activities that support college priorities.
  - **PURSUE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **INVESTIGATE ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**
- Develop public/private partnerships and corporate sponsorship and in-kind donations.
  - **SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS**
- Promote legislative awareness and support.
  - **INVOLVE FACULTY IN EDUCATING LEGISLATORS AND IN TESTIFYING ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**
- Support the excellence and growth of college faculty and staff members through professional development programs.