President’s Fall Retreat  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Table Topic 10  
Growing our Future in Master’s and Doctoral Education  
Co-Facilitators: Kris Retherford and Gregg Marg

Participants about 8 faculty, staff, and administrators plus one Spring graduate of MSU who is coming back this fall to pursue a Master’s degree.

Discussion points:

- MSU has a reputation of having applied research versus the basic research emphasis of R-1 institutions. We should capitalize on this to develop additional applied programs, recruit students, and partner with third parties (industry, government, NGO, etc.).
- Some departments could benefit by developing interdisciplinary programs at the graduate level.
- Additional graduates from our doctoral programs may allow us to change our Carnegie classification. We need to discuss the pros and cons of reclassification.
- There is concern that additional graduate programs could divert resources from existing programs, both graduate and undergraduate. Need to develop an economic model whereby programs could be self-supporting, possibly through external partnerships.
- We should consider raising standards to improve our student pool, require GRE(?).
- We need to recruit more non-MSU students and encourage our undergraduates to attend elsewhere.
- Need resources for existing and new programs to enhance both the number and amount of our graduate assistantships, at least to the level of our peers and preferably to the level of our aspirant peers. Graduate student housing could be considered.
- Need to award faculty load for thesis, dissertation, and research supervision.
- Difficult to compete with For-Profit organization as they are faster and perhaps less rigorous.
- Need to improve website and other communication with potential and admitted students.
- Need to identify areas where there is both a student demand and employment opportunities.
- Collaborate with other MNSCU Universities to recruit students, use their faculty expertise for select courses, and perhaps use their facilities as satellite site.

Recommended Actions:

- Survey potential audiences, partners, or ‘employers’ to determine areas of demand and need.
- Develop better communication with potential graduate students as well as admitted graduate students.
- Increase the number and amount of graduate assistantship stipends to match peers or, preferably, aspirant peers.
- Improve our applicant pool by requiring GRE or other standard.
- Implement load assignment model that includes load for faculty supervision of thesis, dissertation, and research.
- Develop collaboration with other MNSCU Universities for recruitment of students, utilization of their faculty expertise, and utilization of their facilities as satellite sites.