

Proposed Topics for Educational Forums at BOR meetings

2013-14

1. Financial Aid

What is the future of financial aid – federal, state, institutional and private? With rising costs of higher education, financial aid becomes ever more critical. But is it being used in an optimal way to achieve USM's college completion goals? What are the sources of financial aid and how might we expect these various sources to rise or fall in the coming years? How well do we balance the use of financial aid between "need" and "merit and new full-time freshmen admits versus transfer students? Could we be more strategic in the allocation of financial aid to meet our graduation rate goals as well as reduce student debt? What additional resources would be required to meet an optimal allocation?

2. ICA

In its early years, ICA was intended to be a modest enterprise and an extracurricular activity. Over the years, it has turned into a big business and a highly commercial enterprise for many of our institutions, one that now drives decisions on major resource allocations and admissions. And big changes could be afoot, as the 5 major Division I national conferences move ever closer to either splitting off from the NCAA or creating a new division within the NCAA. What are the implications of such a radical change for USM institutions? Do the changes impact the role of intercollegiate athletics in the mission of the institutions and create another level of differences among institutions with Division 1 intercollegiate athletics programs? How can this enterprise be better governed so that ICA's benefits get greater prominence and its risks and vulnerabilities are better controlled?

3. IT

This will be a major and continuing topic for the year. This session could be follow-on from the retreat discussion, if IT becomes a retreat topic, or we could use the proposed retreat outline to guide the discussion if it does not.

4. Way2GoMaryland

A few years ago, USM launched Way2GoMaryland, a program aimed at reaching down to middle schools, with a special emphasis on those schools that serve low income and/or underrepresented families and children and attempting to place more of them on a path to college. How does the program work and what has its impact been? Why the focus on middle school students? Presently, the program operates on a very modest budget with resources generated through philanthropy. Given the changing demographics in the state and the urgent need to increase the flow of this population of students into college, should USM make a greater investment in the program?

5. USM/UMMS

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) has a growing reliance on USM, especially UMB. And, it has a growing presence in the state. Its future in the challenging world of healthcare delivery is inextricably linked to USM. There is now talk of a major new UMMS operated facility in Prince Georges Co, at a cost of at least \$600M. If this proposed facility becomes a reality, its success will require a major contribution of human resources from UMB and the UMB/UMCP Collaborative School of Public Health. How is the USM/UMMS partnership working, and can it be improved?

6. 55 % degree completion goal

This goal, embraced by the Governor and the General Assembly is a major initiative for USM and the state. Why is it so important for the state? While USM has made substantial progress in meeting its obligations to this goal, significant challenges are on the horizon, including changing demographics of the college going population, indications of declining enrollments, and greater reliance on transfers from community colleges. Do we need new strategies with enrollment management and financial aid allocations to meet our college completion goals? Do we need to rethink the viability of the goal itself?

7. Sustainability/climate change

Recent reports to the UN and elsewhere are bringing new focus to the critical issue of climate change and its impact of society. USM has made this issue a major focus of research and education activities. Governor O'Malley and Maryland's General Assembly charged the state with developing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan that will reduce greenhouse gases by 25 percent by the year 2020. What specific threats are posed for our state and institutions? What efforts are underway across USM and how are they helping the state to address its climate change challenges?

8. Redesign of Teacher Education

A national conversation has begun on the inadequacies of the current models of teacher education in the US. USM, MSDE and MHEC are co-sponsoring a major symposium this fall on the "redesign" of teach preparation programs. Where are the effective teacher prep programs? One successful model is a program at University of Texas called, UTeach. The creator of this program, Mary Ann Rankin, is now the provost at UMCP. How might we use her expertise to establish leadership in this critically important area?