April 14, 1 p.m. Campus Forum Summary

About 30 people attended the 1 p.m. forum in Cheney to discuss the Work Group Reports. Each Work Group presented recommendations and encouraged questions and comments (see the Work Group reports for complete information).

The discussion was wide ranging. A student talked about the recent suicide of an EWU student and the lack of information available to all students to help them deal with the trauma. She suggested that there should be more campus-wide events to build community among students and staff and how difficult it is to learn about what events there are. She also commented that enrollment services could be friendlier and more welcoming, especially for those students who may have transferred to Eastern without the benefit of formal orientation sessions. Michelle Whittingham thanked her for her comments and made arrangements to meet with the student to talk further. She reiterated how important it is to hear from students as we continue our planning efforts.

In regard to Group 5’s proposal to have all scheduling centralized under the Registrar, a participant asked if scheduling is more difficult now because departments and units are more proprietary about the space. Prakash Bhuta, co-chair, answered that because class assignments have, in the past, been done in different ways—often ad hoc—it has, on occasion, resulted in uneven treatment across units. There is a need for more consistent policies.

A participant also suggested that as Group 5 looks into technology upgrades it should also consider centralized back-up and file-sharing systems. A comment was then made that as we move forward with more advanced technology we continue also to upgrade our service to those individuals with special needs.

As part of the Group 6 discussion on recruiting faculty, a participant commented that currently our position announcements are publicized too late to be competitive and we need to be more efficient in that regard.

See also comments submitted by Dr. Quinn who was unable to stay for the entire forum.