Strategic Planning Listening Session
Brookings
May 24, 2012

Attendance — 20 at McCrory Gardens Education and Visitors Center

President David Chicoine led the prepared presentation, took questions and discussed topics with the attendees.

QUESTION on length of program accreditation
• Varies by program and accrediting agency

QUESTION about conversations on the costs of higher education
• Concern within university about rates of change and costs that students bear

COMMENT (Al Heuton, BEDC/Chamber) on active adult retirement community strategy and consideration by university leadership to reducing fees for people who want to “sit in” on courses without being tested

QUESTION: How have private business and industry been engaged in strategic planning process?
• Listening sessions and vetting process with identified constituencies
• Tactics within plans may include feedback from business and industry

COMMENT (retired faculty member) on perceived de-emphasis of land-grant mission during year of Morrill Act sesquicentennial
• Impact of declining state support for AES and Extension may impact attitudes
• Morrill Act celebration on July 2

COMMENT on percentage of international students in graduate programs
• Depends on discipline
• Graduate programs motivate citizens to continue education, and international students populate those programs

COMMENT (self-identified as retired farmer) on “demise” of family structure and impact on higher education because students don’t have the support of society and family as they once did
• High percentage of South Dakota high school graduates enrolled in higher education
• First-year advising program
• Probably a correlation between household income and student success

QUESTION: Does the community of Brookings factory into retention?
• No concrete date
• Students from fall 2010 cohort under study because they transferred to several places

COMMENT (retired faculty member) on advising model moved from departments and the value of faculty contact
• Mike Brown offered examples in ABS
• First-year seminar classes
• First-year experience courses

COMMENT (retired faculty) suggested that “SDSU may be too cozy with corporate world”
• Importance of transparency and compliance with policy
• Faculty are interested in conducting research with integrity
Further comment about need to educate people about relationships in research, particularly in agriculture sector