

Internal Assessment Results from the GRCC Today prompt on October 31, 2013

What do you believe are the most important issues GRCC must address in the next Strategic Plan?

31 responses

<p>"(1) Control or reduce tuition rates. Continually increasing tuition makes it extremely challenging for lower income students to attend college;</p> <p>(2) Increase support services for AFP students to improve retention rates;</p> <p>(3) Provide trained staffing in critical areas such financial aid office to meet students' high demand of services.</p> <p>(4) Continue to hire faculty and staff who are representative of the general population. This may include bilingual staff in several languages."</p>
<p>"(1) Ensuring that entering students have the essential skills --literacy, computer aptitude, study habits--to undertake college-level work;</p> <p>(2) Revising the curriculum, particularly in the Humanities/Social Sciences, to offer more appealing non-required courses.</p> <p>(3) Taking greater measures to ensure that financial aid goes only to those students who are serious about and committed to continuing their education</p>
<p>1) Classroom conditions. (most classrooms)</p> <p>2) Faculty perception of GRCC as a place to work - filtering into work place discouraging applicants.</p> <p>3) Ability to hire highly qualified or certified industry faculty that are not necessarily holding a degree.</p>
<p>1. Maintaining college-level expectations for all students; i.e., not dumbing down the curriculum for everyone because so many students cannot handle college work.</p> <p>2. Ensuring that classes offered at off-campus locations are taught by full-timers or at least long-time GRCC adjuncts so that quality standards can be maintained. There are too many folks with too few ties to what is required on-campus who teach at off-campus locations. There should be better on-boarding so they understand the importance of maintaining high standards for accreditation and because it is the right thing to do.</p> <p>3. More outdoor advertising which will be seen by all. Put billboards in the communities that didn't support the last millage, and in those where we offer off-campus classes. The Honors billboards are still being talked about, but parents of college aged students ask me why we don't do more advertising.</p>
<p>1. One transcript that reflects all learning done at the college (including non-credit learning)</p> <p>2. Defined career paths withing GRCC including 'non-credit' to 'credit'.</p> <p>3. Internal articulation - if we can articulate to 4 year institutions, why not internally in GRCC?</p> <p>3. All college level learning done at GRCC should receive education credit. The phrase being used is ""right credit learning"" - no more non-credit!</p> <p>4. Whether unions contribute to or detract from GRCC as an organization and as an education provider to students and the workplace</p>
<p>Accreditation suggests the need for an Institutional Repository to preserve the intellectual legacy owned by the College and to make it accessible to all.</p>

<p>Adequate staffing. The customer phone experience, specifically eliminating phone trees. Public transportation to and from regions outside of GRPS. Not raising tuition.</p>
<p>Balancing the level of support provided to developmental edu. students with the general population especially those who are more likely to earn a credential...and pay back loans (perhaps better supporting high achieving students).</p> <p>Be more clear and offer more support on the pathway to transferring. We know most of our students transfer...we should be proud of this.</p> <p>Accreditation suggests the need for an Institutional Repository to preserve the intellectual legacy owned by the College and to make it accessible to all.</p>
<p>Common courtesies.</p>
<p>Creating opportunities for community and connection with students/staff/faculty such as exercise classes/wellness classes. Campus Recreation for students/staff/faculty.</p>
<p>Decreasing enrollment numbers. Control costs</p>
<p>Developmental Education...possible total re-design. Three semesters is often not enough time for the lowest level students to elevate themselves to college level work. And with the limits on financial aid, it is my belief that we lose a large number of students not just as a result of family issues or lack of confidence, but also because they run out of aid. We need to think outside the box. If, for example, we design a counselor supported open entry open exit system with one set fee, any revenue lost should be made up by the increased retention rate. It will also be necessary to continue the work to ensure alignment of courses within disciplines.</p>
<p>Fiscal responsibility and accountability</p>
<p>From an enrollment standpoint I think the college needs to become much more aggressive and strategic in recruiting traditional students to GRCC. Several positive changes have been within the last year and I would like to see the college market and recruit the top students from area high schools. GRCC offers many unique and affordable opportunities in addition to Honor's courses. This can be accomplished by an aggressive marketing, branding and recruiting strategy. I would like GRCC to become a destination school for high academic achieving students and not a "last option." This can be done through messaging to high school students our academic rigor, affordable tuition and seamless transition of credits to four-year schools. What better way for students to learn than in a diverse classroom setting that reflects the real-world workforce?</p> <p>GRCC should address scholarships for returning students. It is important to help out students who need it the most, but generally those students already have their full tuition covered. I think it would benefit the college tremendously to award students who have already taken a semester worth of classes and demonstrated academic success in the classroom. I believe this would also help our low retention numbers.</p> <p>Workforce Development - GRCC works with employers to determine and offer courses that meet the workforce needs of West Michigan. GRCC students are offered employment opportunities in their chosen fields.</p> <p>GRCC needs to address the increase technology needs from students, community partners, faculty and staff. We do not have the infrastructure in place to respond appropriately to those needs (ie: cloud computing, website that is navigable, data gathering/reporting)</p>

<p>http://chronicle.com/article/Growth-in-College-Staffing/127641/</p>
<p>Improve the ft faculty to student and ft staff to student ratio. Other colleges do a much better job at giving their students the human resources they need to help them succeed</p>
<p>I believe we are dealing with some important issues on campus such as building projects that need to be completed. As most people know, most employees have also been hit hard in the last few years with additional costs. I really think it is important that we as a college do what we can to help the morale of our people and I do not think we are doing that right now.</p>
<p>Improve the ft faculty to student and ft staff to student ratio. Other colleges do a much better job at giving their students the human resources they need to help them succeed.</p>
<p>Learning Environments-Safety, technology, comfort, flexibility Accessibility training-How are we reaching EVERYONE? New faculty? Adjunct?</p>
<p>Marketing what and who we are. Create a clear and consistent Image in the community (slogan, logo, purpose, etc...). High School recruitment. Enrollment process improved (it's "clunky" and complex compared to other colleges). Customer service improvements. We need to host more positive/non-controversial large community events (like the old Talk Festival for example) which are both beneficial to the community but also GRCC. The character of GRCC is unknown to the community. We need to be proud of what we are (A Community College) and stop trying to be everything to everybody. We are not a university and we should proudly embrace what we are. Cost of faculty, staff and programs. Cost of service departments. Cost of technology and its long term care and feeding. Increasing completion in the area (GVSU, Davenport, Muskegon CC, etc...) Online options growing quickly – We need to keep up but continue to cut IT resources. We need to move into Holland and other outlying areas more effectively – Need to lead!</p>
<p>Not necessarily the most important issues but they need to be considered:</p> <p>Embracing BYOD – bring your own device – allowing student to utilize their own equipment in the learning process. Providing more resources to support students in online classes</p>
<p>Our job here as an institution is to help our students succeed, that should be our number 1 goal. In order to do that, I believe we need to do everything we can for our employees to help them believe our administration cares about THEM. Sometimes I don't believe that is always the case. I believe GRCC is a great place to work and I really would like it to stay that way</p>
<p>Preparing students for college Preparing students for life after CC Accessibility Financial balancing</p>
<p>Preparing students in advance of their first semester. Especially first generation. Our orientation experience can be improved. We should focus our CLS 100 offerings during the summer. Balancing the level of support provided to developmental edu. students with the general population especially those who are more likely to earn a credential...and pay back loans (perhaps better supporting high achieving students). Be more clear and offer more support on the pathway to transferring. We know most of our students transfer...we should be proud of this.</p>

<p>Staff morale! Administration has lost the idea of the value of staff and promises made. Leaders are only leaders if someone truly wants to follow, or be like them.</p>
<p>Stakeholder Recommendation: Student Retention Management</p> <p>FOCUS: On a system(s) to provide constant and consistent contact and outreach for students throughout their matriculation. This implementation should also be a focus on building rapport and relationships with students. Additionally, the development of a customized contact schedule to reach students during critical points in their term for support can prove to be resourceful for students. "</p> <p>Enrollment!</p> <p>Morale...Never worked for a company that it was this bad! Very little respect for one another.</p>
<p>Student placement into classes. Currently for Math, only our basic courses up to MA-107 are on the Accuplacer. Personally, I feel that it would be more beneficial to students to have all of our classes up to and including MA-131 Precalculus on the Accuplacer. As it is now, some students that have taken the Accuplacer and been put into MA-107 only because that is the highest level of Math class on there, when they should have been placed into MA-131. We ended up processing an override for this student. Having classes up to MA-131 on there would significantly increase the chances for better and more accurate placement of students into the correct Math class for them.</p>
<p>The customer phone experience, specifically eliminating phone trees.</p> <p>Public transportation to and from regions outside of GRPS.</p> <p>Not raising tuition.</p>
<p>The moral of the faculty is not as optimistic as it used to be.</p> <p>Trust is broken between the faculty and the administration.</p> <p>A few people with little authority are making life miserable for their colleagues. Civility needs to be addressed. People dealing with conflicts need someone to listen to their concern without fear of retribution.</p> <p>Too much tension exist and not much is done to address this sad development.</p> <p>Staff needs to hired for their skills and experience, not just because they have a degree.</p> <p>The sense of togetherness which attracted me to this institution has completely vanished.</p>
<p>We need to figure out a way to better empower our faculty with decision making. We need to flatten our organization and give more decision making to the people on the front lines like the faculty. Meetings of department heads with Deans should be a discussion of issues and of making decisions. Lately, it seems like it is just the Deans are giving orders and the faculty mus follow. There is little discussion.</p> <p>Making all the processes we have seamless for students and making sure all employees know where to send students when issues arise. Students are still being sent on too many "wild goose chases"....</p>
<p>What will be our long term commitment to the business community?</p> <p>In district tuition for Ottawa County residents and/or lowering tuition rates so students can afford to attend outside of the KISD</p> <p>simplify student enrollment</p> <p>loss of student enrollment</p>
<p>Working with the ELL preliterate population that aren't currently being served.</p> <p>--Connecting adult and child literacy through messaging and media.</p> <p>--Working with elementary and secondary schools to bridge the gap for students who face barriers.</p>