Peer Institutions

Board of Trustees

October 13, 2017
Background

• Current Lists of Peer Institutions
  – Board of Trustees approved December 10, 2004
  – Global Challenge State Peers approved by OFM July 17, 2008

• Link

• Charge from President Randhawa
  – “Establish a new peer institution list that would help drive establishing stretch goals for the institution.”
  – In short, aspirational peers
Defining “Aspirational Peer”

• Peer
  – A school that is similar to Western in multiple measures and faces similar types of challenges
    • We decided this meant public master’s-granting universities

• Aspirational
  – Performs better than Western in several metrics
  – A level of performance that provides a challenging but achievable goal
Step One

• Criteria were chosen to help narrow the large list received from IR
  – Not-for-profit
  – Between 6,000-25,000 FTE students (WWU 14,529)
  – Student body 85% undergraduate or higher (WWU 93.9%)
  – Six-year graduation rate 60% or higher (WWU 71.3%)
  – Freshman class including 10% or more Pell Grant recipients (WWU 26%)
  – Student-to-faculty ratio of 12-25 to 1 (WWU 20.52)
  – TN/TT faculty as 65% or more of total FTE faculty (WWU 69.11%)

• Reduced number of schools dramatically
  – 17 schools left as potential peers out of more than 1,100
Potential Peer Schools

- Cal State Chico
- Cal Poly SLO
- Georgia College
- Salisbury (MD)
- Stockton (NJ)
- SUNY Brockport
- Appalachian State (NC)
- UNC Wilmington
- Bloomsburg (PA)
- Millersville (PA)
- Slippery Rock (PA)
- West Chester (PA)
- College of Charleston (SC)
- James Madison (VA)
- Wisconsin-Whitewater
- Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Wisconsin-La Crosse
Step Two

• Criteria chosen in areas we felt Western wanted to improve
  – Five-year graduation rate (WWU 66.2%)
  – Freshman retention rate (WWU 82%)
  – Value of endowment assets (WWU $72 million)
  – Scholarships/grants per student (WWU $1,583)
  – Six-year graduation rate for minority students (WWU 65%)
  – Student-to-faculty ratio (WWU 20.52)
  – Student-to-staff ratio (WWU 14.0)
  – Percentage of international students (WWU 1.0%)
Step Two

• Criteria chosen in areas we felt Western wanted to improve (cont.)
  – Percentage of minority students (WWU 24.9%)
  – Gap between minority and overall graduation rate (WWU 6.3%)
  – Percentage of TN/TT faculty among all faculty (WWU 69.1%)
  – Percentage of students who study abroad (WWU 3.65%)
  – Percentage of faculty of color (WWU 12.9%)
  – Percentage of staff of color (WWU 14.6%)
  – Grants and contracts per faculty (WWU $15,537)
Step Three

• Identifying aspirational peers
  – Those schools that:
    • Were performing better than Western on at least seven of the 15 criteria
    • Were performing better than Western in multiple ways (resources, inclusivity, student success, international)
Recommended Aspirational Peers

- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Georgia College and State University
- Stockton University
- Appalachian State University
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- College of Charleston
- James Madison University
## Some Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>WWU</th>
<th>Peer Average</th>
<th>Peer Best</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-year graduation</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshman retention</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
<td>86.7%</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-year minority graduation</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gap in minority graduation</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>International student percentage</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study abroad percentage</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
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