

RU Engaged
Notes from January 29, 2008

The following topics were discussed on January 29, 2008:

Topic: What is the 'Rowan Experience'?

Responses ranged from 'we don't have one' to 'a very nurturing environment.' A faculty member concluded that the 'Rowan experience' is not universal to all students. We can't easily define it, but participants gave examples that can be built upon. Responses included:

- There are a lot of clubs. There's no reason to leave (student)
- We need a reason to stay on campus (student)
- We don't have a 'rowan experience' (grad student)
- Small classes where professors know the students and the students know the professors (several students and a few faculty)
- It's evolving, but there is a basis. This is a very nurturing university (alum/prof staff)
- You make it what you want it (student)
- Should be more than 'thorough and efficient' (retiree)
- Dynamic, ever-changing, earmarked with opportunity (faculty)
- Should be worth the cost
- A place where needs are met and validated (administrator)
- Develop people's minds, bodies, and spirits
- More connection to the university; not just your department or program (grad student)
- A place where everybody knows your name (faculty)

(also led to discussion of values which included concern with the environment, critical thinkers, civic-minded, willing to work hard for something)

Topic: How can we cultivate more school spirit and a sense of community?

- Use of appreciative inquiry; in small groups find out what people love about the institution (couple of faculty)
- Develop traditions (faculty/professional staff)
- Support athletic events (faculty)
- More services (including housing) to connect the graduate students (grad student)
- Better outreach to alumni (student)
- A 'college town' would promote better sense of community; hopefully Rowan Blvd. will do this (administrator, faculty)
- Need more of a sense of space (faculty)
- We need something to rally around (our colors, mascot) (professional staff)
- Incorporate student workers into the office atmosphere (support staff)

Topic: How do we enhance our public outreach?

- Experiential learning, service learning, international experiences, internships (faculty, professional staff, administrator)

- We already extend ourselves to the community (prof staff)
- We need to do a better job
- Service learning needs a system and resources (faculty)
- Service learning should be required (faculty and students)
- Students should be encouraged to play an active role in service organizations
- Faculty need to support service-oriented student programming (student)
- Service learning could start with the residential component (student)

Topic: What would you 'go to the wall' for?

- Small class sizes (students and faculty)
- IWS (student)
- Sense of family/unity (faculty)
- Being able to shape our own future (administrator)
- The Camden campus (student)
- International experiences (administrator)
- Qualified professors (student)
- A place that is vibrant and beautiful (faculty)
- Extra-curricular activities (student)

Topic: What about the future?

- We need more international experiences (administrator)
- Need to integrate international students (student)
- Need to generate more private funding (administrator)
- Professors need to build more of a sense of community in the classroom (student)
- Need passionate professors (review use of adjuncts) (student)
- Need faculty and staff willing to stay past 4:30 (student)
- Need to address the Rt 322 divide (student)
- We need closer relationship with Camden campus (student)
- We need better communication on campus
- We need banners, colors, traditions (prof staff)
- More services/support for commuter students (student)
- What are we doing with the West Campus? (faculty)
- Increase # of outside speakers, cultural events (student)
- We need incentives for faculty and staff to be involved (student and faculty)