

Summary of Meridian Campus Focus Group Discussion

July 9, 2007

Meridian Campus Assets:

1. Constructive interdisciplinary ties, communication, and collaboration among Meridian faculty
2. Each of communication between disciplines and faculty
3. Positive and collegial relationships among faculty and staff on the Meridian Campus
4. Outstanding administrative support
5. Community relationships and engagement/support
6. Low faculty: student ratio
7. Personal relationships faculty are able to have with students because of small class sizes and personal counseling availability
8. Meridian Campus provides a private school education within a public institution
9. High proportion of terminal degree faculty in the classroom
10. Availability, IT support for, and use of cutting edge instructional technology for education, meeting participation, and communication (distance learning, online instruction, etc.)
11. Riley's Center's potential for academic programs and research, as well as its contribution to quality of life for Meridian
12. IRB expertise on main campus
13. Institutional commitment to student learning and progress
14. Administrative expertise in curriculum and program development; ingenuity in enabling new programs to move forward
15. Faculty and staff accessibility and availability to students

Meridian Campus Barriers

1. Lack of senior career role models within disciplines for junior faculty's career development and mentoring
2. Few full time faculty, extensive reliance on adjunctive faculty to meet instructional needs; adjunct faculty do not build research foundation
3. Heavy teaching loads
4. Incongruities between Meridian campus and main campus in terms of salary levels, administrative supports, access to campus resources and services
5. Lack of expertise and responsiveness in Sponsored Programs Administration
6. Small number of students; limited duration (undergraduates are at Meridian only for two years, for example)
7. Challenge of attempting to develop new programs without additional resources and in the face of uncertain student market
8. Need for math and science faculty and additional courses, particularly in Arts & Sciences
9. Availability of resources and additional faculty to be able to offer graduate programs
10. Coordination and interaction with Starkville faculty, departments, and administrative units can be a barrier, is highly variable across units/departments

11. Physical resources (one building) limit ability to increase the number of students, faculty, and programs or have space available for research
12. Need for improved campus identity; marketing, and public relations for the Meridian Campus
13. Limited number of program offerings (linked to #8 above)
14. Need for expanded electronic library resources
15. Perceptions and misperceptions between the two campuses