Subcommittee on Departmental Involvement in the Global Network

Discussion with Chairs and Program Heads

Over the summer of 2013, we conducted 45-minute interviews with a number of department chairs and program heads, which in some cases included deputy chairs or other faculty involved in the GNU. We came prepared with a brief overview of the subcommittee’s charge and the list of potential questions below, but we kept the conversation open-ended and let department chairs steer it as much as possible.

Prepared list of potential questions

1. How, if at all, is your department currently involved with the Global Network University (GNU)? With the site locations? With the portals?
2. What about your involvement has worked well so far and what are the areas of concern? What benefits or costs do you perceive from your departments’ involvement in the GNU?
3. How, if at all, do you anticipate your department being more or less involved in the GNU in the coming years? What would be your ideal type of involvement in the GNU?
4. What kind of information and support would help facilitate your department’s decision making with regard to and its involvement with the GNU?

Feedback from Department Leaders

• Concerns about quality control and operational risks.
• Recognition of opportunities for students, research and teaching opportunities for faculty, and opportunities for schools to attract better students.
• A wish for greater clarity about departments’ role in the GNU, the degree to which the portals are separate schools or extensions of departments at the square, and the uniformity of standards.
• The importance of greater department involvement in discipline-specific processes such as recruiting and course oversight for ensuring quality control.
• Concerns about the disruption to departments caused by long faculty absences and the drain on faculty time and other department resources.
• Requests for data on GNU course offerings, enrollments, CFEs, student demand and feedback, and 5-10-year budget plans.
• Concerns about faculty who may be unwelcome at specific GNU locations.