The following is part of a memorandum from the president of Humana University.

“Last year the number of students who enrolled in online degree programs offered by nearby Omni University increased by 50 percent. During the same year, Omni showed a significant decrease from prior years in expenditures for dormitory and classroom space, most likely because instruction in the online programs takes place via the Internet. In contrast, over the past three years, enrollment at Humana University has failed to grow, and the cost of maintaining buildings has increased along with our budget deficit. To address these problems, Humana University will begin immediately to create and actively promote online degree programs like those at Omni. We predict that instituting these online degree programs will help Humana both increase its total enrollment and solve its budget problems.”

**Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or unstated assumptions of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on these assumptions and what the implications are for the argument if the assumptions prove unwarranted.**

The president of Humana University has asserted a series of premises leading to a conclusion based on which Humana university should provide online courses to students to address the ongoing problems in the university including a decline in enrollment at Humana University and a deficient budget along with an increase in the maintenance expenditures of the buildings since Omni university has successfully addressed these problems by online degree programs. However, the assumptions made in the president’s declaration are not convincing due to the reasons stated below.

First off, the president has assumed that the waxes in the enrollments of Omni university are due to offering the online degree programs. However, this assumption can be challenged easily as the increase in enrollments may have nothing to do with online courses. Indeed, maybe Omni university has endowed some other facilities to the students like a thorough electronic library which is so beneficial for the students. Otherwise, there might be some additional programs along with the online courses which have intrigued the students. Therefore, online degree programs are not an appropriate basis for the president’s conclusion.

Furthermore, there is another assumption in the declaration based on which the wanes in the expenditures of dormitory and classroom spaces are regarded as a result of offering an online degree program. Nonetheless, this premise can also be impugned since when it comes to the decrease in expenditures, the rationale of providing online courses does not make sense. In fact, there might be other explanations for this outcome like altering the infrastructures of the buildings and obtaining a system that reduces energy-consuming. Moreover, maybe the president of Omni university has offered some part-time jobs relative to these buildings to the students, like watching the entrance of the building, with a lower wage to compensate for the maintenance expenditures.

Finally, the president of Humana University has wrongly concluded that by offering online courses exactly the same as Omni university, the problems associated with the enrollment and expenditures would be ironed out. On the contrary, there is not any guarantee that this would happen as the president has considered the conditions in both universities the same. In fact, maybe the president of Omni university had no choice except to offer online courses. Maybe the professors have been migrated out of the country or have gone on a scientific trip. In addition, this strategy has been successful this year; however, are there any warrantors regarding its long-term effects on the university’s thriving? Maybe the student would not get the instructions seriously and the scientific level of the university would drop in the future.

To recapitulate, the assumptions made in the president’s declaration are just some groundless premises which can be challenged due to the reasons stated above. Online degree programs would not lead to a desirable result unless the feasible problems associated with the conclusion made by the president come into consideration, and its drawbacks are addressed.

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Allocated time: 40 minutes