“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 predicts that establishing some online degree programs will solve various issues of the university, such as increasing its overall student enrollment and resolving its budget deficit problems, and all of this is based on the fact that the total number of registers in the nearby Omni University has improved by 50 percent. However, this prediction cannot be accepted as it is in that it rests on several premises, all of which can be challenged.

Firstly, it is assumed that the 50 percent increase in the Omni university's online classes is because of the programs' nature, which is online; however, there are other alternative explanations for this result. Maybe, the university has advertised its online programs in other cities with far more potential pupils than the town where the university is located. Subsequently, since the courses are via the internet, non-local students can participate in the programs; thus, the sharp ascent in the number of enrollments is because of the new students. Another possible explanation for the sharp rise could be that maybe, the university has introduced some novel majors that no other school in the country offers. If that is the case, then students from all over the country would rush in and register for the classes; thus, we can conclude that the number of participants in the ordinary fields has remained constant, and the growth is induced by the new students.

Secondly, the noticeable decrease in expenditures for dormitory and classroom space compared to previous years in the Omni University does not necessarily support the claim that all of this has resulted from the classes being online, and there exist multifarious reasons for this phenomenon. For example, maybe the Omni University had done a comprehensive renovation and had renewed most of its appliances that need continuous repair. So, it is utterly rational that its cost on the dormitory and classrooms' upkeep would drop significantly compared to before.

Lastly, the low registration number in the Humana university can be explained by numerous reasons, and it is not valid to assume that if the university starts to proffer online programs, its enrollment record will enhance. For instance, maybe the university's instruments in the laboratories are archaic, and since it cannot afford to supplant them, most of its former students have decided to register elsewhere. Another alternative explanation for this can be that the university has lost its most brilliant professors and has hired amateurs instead; therefore, it can be predicted that the university has experienced this drop due to its classes losing excellence.

In the final analysis, the writer's conclusion cannot be taken to be correct unless the problems mentioned in the body paragraphs above are all addressed and ironed out. Ultimately, it is essential to assemble more information to appraise the premises discussed above in order to decide if the prediction about Humana university's online classes would hold true.

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