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 writer of the issue predicts that launching and advertising online degree programs, like university of Omni, will be effective to rectify the problems of low enrollment and insufficient budget. However, this prediction cannot be accepted as it depends on some assumptions all of which can be questioned in one way or another.

The first unjustified assumption is that the number of online students, which has been increased by 50 percent, assumed as an indicator of total students. Perhaps, overall number of students remained the same while some of them just changed their study type. Or maybe the total number of students even decreased during this period since online students are not the major group of all.

The second problem is that the president of Humana University considered all the descending trend of expenditures for dormitory and classroom related to lack of students’ physical presence. Yet, it might be because of good maintenance and updating the facilities in the previous years, as this calculation is just based on one year. Or maybe the number of students whose home is another city decreased and consequently, the number of dorms residents dropped.

The third problematic part of the argument is that the writer assumes all the problems of maintaining buildings’ cost and lack of budget can be solved by a good launched and advertised online education system. Nevertheless, it is probable that establishing an online platform costs much money so that not only can it not be regarded as an additional resource, but also demands more cash. Also, some of the old facilities in the official buildings can cause increased repairing costs regardless of the study type of students.

And the fourth unreliable part of this argument is that the writer assumes all the situations of three years ago, when the online program of Omni University started, identical to the current ones while it is not true. Maybe the desire of the young generation was more online enthusiast in the past and it is different now. Or maybe e-learning was once so prestigious even though it is not the same now.

As an overall analysis, the writer’s prediction cannot be regarded as valid, because all of the doubts discussed in the body paragraphs above. It can be accepted only if the stated flaws and weaknesses in the logic of conclusion get answered rationally.