**GRE – Writing – Homework2 (252)**

**Writer: Hasan Pakdaman**

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 argument recommends that Humana University can both mount the total registration to their programs and get rid of financial problems as well because Omni University has achieved a great success in its online courses presented last year. However, this recommendation cannot be accepted because it rests on a number of premises all of which can be questioned in many ways.

The first problem with the argument is that the writer assumes implicitly that a fifty percent increase in online programs at Omni University was a great achievement. However, there is not convincing evidence to prove that it was an achievement. Maybe the last year Omni University’s main building went under maintenance and consequently it was forced to provide courses just on the online platform. Thus, such a fifty percent increase in online enrollment never means a great success. On the other hand, the total number of students may decreased last year at that university.

Another problem with the argument is that the writer assumes that a drastic decrease from prior years in expenditures at Omni University was because of substituting physical classes with online classes. However, in this case, there is not a shred of evidence that prove this premise. Maybe the Energy cost at where Omni University located is very high and because Omni University changed its outdated energy system with some modern efficient ones, its final costs decreased significantly. Thus in this case that decrease in costs was because of saving energy rather than providing online classes.

The third problem is that author thinks in spite of failing in registering new students in the last three years, Humana University will succeed in registering students in its online classes. However, if that university did not achieve any success in holding physical class there is no warranty that it will be successful in holding online classes. Maybe Humana University does not employ adroit instructors to teach its students and as a result its social acceptance decreased over the three past years and caused students to enroll in other universities. Therefor, as long as the intrinsic problem with Humana University’s education system does not solve, migrating from physical classed to online ones is absurd.

In the final analysis, the writer’s recommendation cannot be taken to be correct because, as it was shown in the body paragraphs above, it depends on a number of premises each of which is questionable. The recommendation can only be accepted if the weaknesses already referred to are all removed.