**Presidential Search Input Session Notes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>October 5, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group:</td>
<td>Alumni Club Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approx. Number of Attendees:</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search Committee Members Present:</td>
<td>Teresa Sullivan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Responses to 1st Question:**

What qualities, characteristics, and criteria are desired in a new president of MSU?

- Approachable – seen on campus with students, faculty, staff and alumni – seen at lunch and in formal and casual interactions – recognized by the students and vice versa
- Relatable to students – seen taking selfies with students – accessible and connected
- Wants to know and interact with a diverse range of alumni around the world, regardless of giving capacity – a president to all of MSU community
- Honors international charter – has a global vision – appreciates MSU’s global presence is an established brand and understands its global position
- Empathetic to diversity issues – not just on campus – comfortable going to urban areas – seeks out grants and scholarships (Hannah’s legacy) to advance diverse groups
- Considers the university community’s knowledge when tackling problems and seeks out advice regardless of level within the university – calling on academic experts in areas like crisis management & PR versus going first (or solely) to outside consultants
- Naturally and comfortably collaborative – not someone who has all the answers and simply gives directives
- Appreciates the value of a clear vision and can communicate that vision consistently
- Not adverse to assessing/predicting risk in situations – the inability or unwillingness to evaluate risk in the past lead to current crisis
- Crisis management experience or appreciation of standard best practices in crisis communications
- Visionary in extending the Land Grand mission into the future
- Committed to ensuring high graduation rates – even for students like first gen
- Committed to creating and maintaining a safe and nurturing campus community/living environment
- Committed to pursuing transparent communications of risk, financial health, student success
- Courageous and bold with difficult decisions
- Servant mentality – here for constituents, not career
- Willingness to keeping these types of open forums
- Communicator adept with students, faculty and the public who speaks well to situations as the mouthpiece of alumni
- Visionary in extending MSU’s land grant mission into urban areas.
- Nationally recognized as a leader in diversity.
- Passionate about the transformation and graduation of each student with that passion reflected in policies and budgetary priorities.
- Bold in creating partnerships between MSU and foundations, nonprofit organizations, local governments, distressed school districts and other stakeholders.
- Laser focused on maintaining a safe, nurturing and stimulating academic, social and living environment on the campus of MSU.
- Committed to public transparency regarding the university’s actions, impact on student outcomes, financial affairs and decision making.
- Committed to increasing the number of black faculty, staff, administrators and students.
-
Responses to 2nd Question:
Higher education is facing many challenges today. What do you consider to be the major challenges facing MSU?

- Take ownership that there was wrong that occurred and work to rectify the problems – help MSU return to the top, not just in sports, but in how the world sees your students and campus advantages – return MSU to the limelight
- Declining high school graduation rates in Michigan – how will MSU recruit/compete in the future
- Decreasing state funds means fundraising is still critical
- Building trust across the country and across campus
- Clear PR campaign with a person representing the university – a figure head
- Keeping our Land Grant mission relevant moving forward
- Balancing the cost of education against scholarships for the middle 50% student – we are doing a lot for our top students, but we want the rest here, too, and to graduate – so more support is needed
- The increasing costs of attendance makes it so summer and school year jobs aren’t enough to pay for tuition
- What to do about the current situation – will MSU be the poster child of how to handle it right? – right now the university is trying to say what is going right, but it’s not top of mind – people are still struggling and we can’t ignore that – we have to be open and transparent – like ‘beat State News with the information’ transparent
- Significant problems with the graduation gap of first generation students
- University of Michigan is more creative and impactful with collaboration in urban areas like Detroit – be bold and attack – this will make a difference in the students we attract from these areas
- How to prioritize needs
- Once the vision is set, what surrogates can be put in place all can get behind
- There is a general feeling of alumni is that relationships are fractured at the top – leadership is not pulling in the same direction
- All being shared [in this session] matters. We need Super Woman or Super Man – need a leader who can understand and lift up mission and purpose
- Need a special person for this special moment with a special vision – not traditional
- Walk the walk – if innovative in words, be innovative in practice
- Keeping students in the middle of all plans – inclusive, accessible – we are here for the students
- Need to understand the culture of the university and its reach across the state (MSU Extension, for example) – we are more than a campus
- Faculty, staff, alumni and students want to weigh in and current situations haven’t allowed for that – feel left out of significant challenges – how to include again?
### Responses to 3rd Question:
Focusing on the future, what do you consider to be important strengths and opportunities for MSU?

- Alumni aren’t paid by money, they are paid by passion – if the president has the courage to ask for help, alumni will be there – reach out & listen – example given of tribal chiefs pictured on the Kellogg Center’s walls actively listening to the people and then acting – use the power of your alumni for help
- Power of alumni goes well beyond the pocket book
- Ranked stats are known – focus on intangibles – Spartans want to find other Spartans – Go Green/Go White interactions happen all over the world – alumni & students seek each other out – all share these connections/this desire
- Crisis unified Spartans – they uplift and support one another more – alumni who are still here aren’t going to leave you
- Some alumni feel disenfranchised – need to get them back – perhaps university mistakes or transitions are to blame – passion is still there, though – not every school has the passion to connect the way we do – to the point of being a helping hand – use that
- Penn State could have leaned on alumni more – MSU could do more in that space
- Deep risk history at MSU – leaders in social justice – it’s our culture
- Took risks with diversity historically and that is our base
- MSU is ‘home’ – it becomes who you are and part of your identity beyond the transaction of getting an education
- Being a Spartan is who you are – we have people 2000 miles away who still care and feel connected – the ethos of our place
- Amazing alumni structure – staff to club relationship is strong – alumni are aligned to deploy messages and volunteers
- Next time you’re in a hotel, find a Spartan – you’ll get a room upgrade
- MSU students are hardworking, humble and want to do well – recruiters feel this way – come with global mindset and pride/loyalty – they literally wear MSU daily
- Strengths in Student Life on campus that flows into what we do to each other
- Relationships with employers are strong – great internships – employers like hiring MSU students
- Athletics is a strength – we have a huge cost center available to the next president to prop things up – we have a national presence
- FRIB is like 5 BCS Championship bowls
- Very large convoluted family with lots of legacy relationships – diverse and loyal
- Alumni network – can pose questions to alumni and engage around a problem
- MSU is a destination opportunity, not a stepping stone
- Michigan thinks a lot – MSU does a lot, but it’s not good enough to fix a problem...we want to lead
- Legacy in action and relationships
- High faculty/staff base who are alumni and one of the strongest retiree giving programs nationally
- The People’s University – cohesive
- Embrace the real greatness of MSU – not the brand – the brand should be a reflection of the greatness and not the driver

| General Comments: | ○ None |
| Other: | - Presidential Search website, openness of nominations, and closing remarks (Dr. Sullivan) |