Presidential Search Input Session Notes

**Date:** 10/11/18

**Group:** Council of Research Deans-CORD

**Approx. Number of Attendees:** 14

**Search Committee Members Present:** Byrum, Foster

**Responses to 1st Question:**

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

Articulate the public service/research mission of MSU; someone who wants to have an impact on the world, policy and innovation

Come here because ideas matter

Interdisciplinary MSU; IQ, ENGR, EDU working together to track autism project with CAL—we need a pres who wants to foster that team

Teaching and learning is also key, it’s at the heart of MSU, but grads and undergrads expect a research-based learning focus;

We need someone telling the good stories

When we lack effective stewardship we stand to lose a lot; those coming to work/learn and they want to be part of the best teams—helps with recruiting—talent follows talent

Independence from the BOT—the pres/board need to challenge each other; and have had challenges in the past with those around the pres not always giving them hard advice—someone who can recognize when they’re wrong
Need pres who can objectively look at issues; strong character

Rebuild trust/confidence in outside orgs/funding

Research, education and outreach are not one or the other, they are symbiotic; they have to go together

Our researchers and educators are committed to training next gen—selling point

Stewardship—harder to get fed agencies to fund building/infrastructure—pres who can keep us on top of next opportunities

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<th>Responses to 2nd Question:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Higher education is facing many challenges today. What do you consider to be the major challenges facing MSU?</td>
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<td>Trust—that pressure influences how legislatures fund public institutions</td>
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<td>Signaling challenge—degree matters a lot to students coming in—new pres needs to be aware</td>
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<td>Staffing research/grad programs</td>
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<td>Budget model—tension around this model; do we continue doing what we’re doing, or change it? And there’s disagreement on how to handle this</td>
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<td>Need a leader who is willing to question current model and think about the future</td>
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<td>ASK the people around you to help shape the narrative; and leadership should be bold and recognize that others may not always agree</td>
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**Responses to 3rd Question:**
Focusing on the future, what do you consider to be important strengths and opportunities for MSU?

MSU has very unique research portfolio—we have very high NSF/DOE grants, plus NIH FRIB and plant research—how do we synergize those two?

Very powerful international research—“world grant” university
Collaborative interaction here at MSU—different departments, different colleges—we don’t have barriers of collaboration; we don’t want to silo these—COMPETATIVE ADVANTAGE

Have had strong central support for research

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**General Comments:**
CORD would love opportunity to meet with candidates

*Don’t let the transparency stop when this search stops!*

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**Other:**