Presidential Search Input Session Notes

Date: 10.11.18

Group: Open Forum

Approx. Number of Attendees: 16

Search Committee Members Present: Foster, Finn, Murray, Byrum, Glasmacher, Spray, Lipscomb, Kempel, Rifiotis, Bittner

Responses to 1st Question:
What qualities, characteristics, and criteria are desired in a new president of MSU?

- Executive management and scholarly contributions/experience, guided by values of land grant heritage, vision to extend mission into urban areas, leader in equity and inclusion, bold in partnerships with non profits and local governments, maintain safe environment on campus, transparency of actions/financial affairs, lead MSU as one of best universities in the world
- Integrity, communicator, transparency: regain trust, inclusive and collaborative leader, business minded and understanding of labor issues, university as a destination not a stepping stone, marry land grand heritage with entrepreneurism
- Diverse set of skill sets, business experience and acumen, compliance systems in place
- Return to humility, no longer prioritize athletics over academics, leader not steeped in privilege, take some risks
- Collaboration, leader who sees expertise as experience not ego collection
- External candidate, deep understanding of sexual violence and demonstrated commitment to preventing harassment, sophisticated knowledge of intersectionality, work with community to reshape top down and retaliatory culture, student/faculty/staff representation and voting power at highest levels, careful about choosing business leaders because of their history
- Someone who is tough on sexual assault, partner with college and others on campus where this is not a point where we go down but where we heal and grow from there
- Someone who will find what’s right about MSU
- Vision, move towards goals, maintain pride but not be overcome by it

Responses to 2nd Question:
Higher education is facing many challenges today. What do you consider to be the major challenges facing MSU?

- Lower appropriation for higher education in Michigan, declining number of high school graduates, how do we do more with less?, we will have to market MSU, seek new ways of doing what we do
- We must be authentic to the challenges that we have, not hear extraordinary again until we are, be humble, hire a healer (it will be challenging)
- How do we graduate students who are coming to MSU? Graduation gap between black and other students at MSU, utilize best practices from other universities to close graduation gaps
- Toxic pervasive rape culture, creating a safe environment where survivors can come forward, survivors need us to be their voice so they don’t have to speak all the time
**Responses to 3rd Question:**

Focusing on the future, what do you consider to be important strengths and opportunities for MSU?

- Research in agriculture and extension program, disparate assets: capitalize on unique assets, we have an opportunity to connect all of those things, tie extension to innovation: patents
- Opportunities to capitalize on students and alumni, MSU’s culture isn’t all bad (work to do, we have great opportunities ahead)
- Bring it with us, be authentic and use our experience as a strength, MSU asks the student how they can help but not what can “you” offer, MSU is student focused, Residential and Honors colleges, team based learning, Spartan family (sell that to the next President)
- Taking a bad situation and making it into a best practice, spirit of campus to contribute to the solution, Madison and other graduates know how to talk about difficult issues (political, etc.)
- Ecosystem of organizations, need to give them all the time of day, can take existing ecosystem and utilize into fullest potential to turn university around and be a leader, focus on student life over athletics and brand
- Strong track record in technology transfer and faculty/undergraduate research, opportunity in diverse assets we hold and cultivate, land, WKAR
- Tremendous opportunity to become a leader in combatting sexual assault, need a leader to point us in the right direction, leadership must make this a top priority
- Marry formal legal systems with informal cultural systems to combat assault and harassment on campus, not use criminality as a standard, opportunity to deal with complex situations and solve it

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