## Presidential Search Input Session Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>9/17/18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group:</td>
<td>Student Athlete Athletic Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approx. Number of Attendees:</td>
<td>40-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search Committee Members Present:</td>
<td>Foster, Byrum, Porteous, Murray, Spray, Hult, Lipscomb, Finn, Knutson, Bittner, Rifiotis</td>
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### Responses to 1st Question:

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

Past administration came across that there wasn’t collaboration between athletics and academic administration; swim team shares facilities w/general public, basic functionality is poor; student body needs a place to focus on fitness; fostering relationship between athletics and the administration; adds to student experience, more likely to donate/volunteer in the future; investment in IM sports;

Transparency—new president and the provost and BOT; trying time for athletes and other 52k athletes on campus, someone who talks TO us not AT us; we’re told to act like adults and want to be treated as such

different parts of the search are difficult to quantify—just an idea—someone who has had children/gone through the university; candidate’s past (shady), want someone with a really clean slate, good background

Current presidency has been questionable, allegations/questions should be considered; more keen on making economically structured (engineering has 2% tuition increase because they’ll make more)
Higher ed facing problems w/race and diversity, multiple incidents here on campus, looking for someone with a diverse background, diversity counsel doesn’t get to meet with Pres; race and diversity huge issue

Values students opinions, who is present in the student experience; Beekman holds breakfasts to hear athletes and their experiences, a pres who hears their perspective; community outreach, attend athletic events to be around the students

Beekman and Engler at home golf outing, like to see the support of the administration, someone who wants to be involved w/entire student population, allows students to feel more connected

Beekman came to the classroom and shared in doing surveys w/consultants if you had to pick superstar/movie star as MSU—the most common answer was Tom Hanks (approachable)

Professional/approachable, stop in and be seen in the classroom or at a sporting event; small interactions mean a lot—when you see Sparty in the cafeteria!

Energy! Someone who is passionate about MSU, can get followers that way, with energy; athletes work hard for MSU as athletes; passion important too

What does the committee want to see? Byrum: we do NOT have a list, we want to first hear what the MSU community wants, distill what we hear, discuss as committee—grassroots up, not top down; accountability very important; forward direction—we can only go up; hold themselves accountable and actually follow through; transparency;

Someone who has already been in a leadership role at a large institution; we don’t need someone on the learning curve

Someone who isn’t just focusing on the top things—indoor track girls tearing ACLs on indoor track; smaller groups who don’t have the kind of pull that football has

Problem solving

Accountability: humble enough to not just bark orders---and actually do the work themselves, willing to get dirty and in the weeds

Organizational skills to sort through all the messages; attended town halls and everyone had similar gripes, but they weren’t all working together to get their message heard
Responses to 2nd Question:
Higher education is facing many challenges today. What do you consider to be the major challenges facing MSU?

Cost of education; not sure how to deal with, but people can’t afford it

Perception of the university; attracting academic talent—will parents be willing to send their kids here? Is safety a question? Hoping for a president who can clean up the university’s image and keep MSU attracting top talent

MSU doesn’t offer scholarships based on academic performance—might inspire kids to achieve higher if they did

Media: twitter/facebook hearing things through the grapevine when the university hasn’t even told us; didn’t realize that Engler mandated healthcare for example; wrong perceptions from media

Lack of communication on resources—mental health, advising, services; make these more accessible for all students

The worry of student loans; athletes realize that having a scholarship makes them lucky; hard to leave college in that much debt

People with disabilities—not accessible; we can continue to lead and do better in that area—we need to be more accessible to people with disabilities

Curriculum/requirements take away from other classes they could be taking instead—students understand maybe they make them more well-rounded, but the students feel forced into and get no academic benefit from these courses

Parking/moped parking; bike parking and impound

Building reputation back as a university

More class options for smaller majors; stats major for example, just in general

University is more focused on the RESEARCH than the TEACHING; profs don’t care if you pass, they care about their labs

Public perception; needs to be on the forefront
Responses to 3\textsuperscript{rd} Question:
Focusing on the future, what do you consider to be important strengths and opportunities for MSU?

Collaboration: President with many different groups and messages, finding a happy medium/middle ground; creating an atmosphere where students can collaborate; best part of the Spartan experience is meeting new people; older buildings don’t have space for students to meet

How admin works with the students and how we move forward with sharing with the public; doesn’t think donors understand why they should keep giving money to MSU; what we’re doing and why

Prideful the Spartan community is, really could use that as a strength, getting the good out to the public

Tradition: any MSU grad and their dorm experience and how you can connect; study abroad—no matter where you are in the world someone will say “go green” and you can respond “go white”

Bad events last year, perception is worse outside, but from the inside the team/student athlete community got more close-knit; athletes were supporting each other

Top osteo/med programs, there’s a dark cloud but it is a strength so we need to push forward

Access to opportunities—study abroad, access to research/projects—fostering that access and continuing existing opportunities

Lots of opportunities for student involvement

Alumni network—general public—good to see alumni want to participate and let us know they were still here for us (not as just athletes, but as students)

Diversity—coming from small community it’s cool to see the diversity on the team and all over campus
**General Comments:**

Will Engler have input? No and he's not a candidate

Will there be opportunities for students/athletes to weigh in on candidates? Not determined as of yet (suggested that transparency is considered)

**Other:**