# Presidential Search Input Session Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>9.26.18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group:</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approx. Number of Attendees:</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search Committee Members Present:</td>
<td>Foster, Sullivan, Dagbovie, Rifiotis, Spray</td>
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**Responses to 1st Question:**

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

- What is our mission, core business? Scholarship—research, teaching, learning, outreach.
- Promote excellence in scholarship
- Academic leader foster environment to attract students—aademic background—someone who has spent time in a classroom or lab
- Experience
- Inclusion, scholarship
- Bottom-up approach—not corporate perspective driven by metrics
- Support arts—attending events, promoting student exposure
- Advanced degree, teaching background, research. Needs to be responsive to students and faculty and understand how MSU works
- Great communicator—Engler emails—keep everyone updated. Social media
- Honest, forthright, moral
- Youth—perspective of someone who is part of younger demographic
- Community builder and inclusive, involve everyone—not from top-down perspective
• Handle tensions—recognize that there are many values to endorse and that it is complex—how do you support one set of values when it may disregard another set?
• Set tone of connection—prioritize making students feel connected
• Free inquiry and expression—defend faculty from political and other interference. Researchers allowed to do work
• Administration made up of people who have been here all of their careers. Need diversity, studied somewhere else, new work experience, new ideas

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

• Trust—public needs to trust higher education and what we do. Students trust faculty and faculty trust administration
• Healing—people feel hurt and let down by administration. People work hard to build up the university's reputation and to see it destroyed is hard for everyone
• Reputation—important for those who come here, stay here
• Financial—how to manage payment of settlement
• Corporate culture—less of focus
• Lack of hope that this will lead to something good. Lots of institutional failure over the years leading up to this. Process needs to give hope and confidence, transparent, important that we [the university] all get behind it
• If being investigated, should recuse self from decision
• Change—real change in structure, in order to build trust
• Develop trust—in administration, community around social issues. Critical to start healing the community.
• Funding—shift from governmental funding to tuition. No funding allocated by class size. Develop good trust to tackle the hard issues like changing the funding mechanism, graduate student model
• Legitimacy—have an amazing candidate but if process is not legitimate, candidate will not be successful
**Responses to 3rd Question:**
Focusing on the future, what do you consider to be important strengths and opportunities for MSU?

- Funding towards student experience—missing opportunities with undergraduates. Hiring adjuncts or tenure lines for better quality experience.
- Do not hang so much on what president does—we collectively run the university.
- Many times MSU has led the nation in what we have done and said – divestment from South Africa.
- Recognize the good that we do. Example—Dr. Mona. We should be proud of what we do around the state and world—exemplify the bravery and ability to do good.

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<th>General Comments:</th>
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<td>Other:</td>
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