

Presidential Search Input Session Notes

Date:	September 27, 2018
Group:	Residential Colleges – James Madison, Lyman Briggs, RCAH
Approx. Number of Attendees:	50
Search Committee Members Present:	Melanie Foster, Teresa Sullivan, Greg Spray, Cookie Rifiotis, Mary Finn
Responses to 1st Question:	
<p>What qualities, characteristics, and criteria are desired in a new president of MSU?</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professor/Chair: value the core mission of undergraduate education, consider value of the residential colleges - Professor/Chair: strong leader who can rebuild trust and safety, good listener, open communication, experience in faculty senate and academic governance, value undergraduate and liberal arts, diversity and inclusion, sensitive to sexual violence - Professor/Chair: commitment to undergraduate education, environment of trust and safety to foster success of students, faculty, and staff, fix the communication lines and commitment to shared governance, understanding of the complexities of campus sexual violence - Professor: external candidate, understanding of sexual violence, diverse and intersecting issues understanding, accountability and open to dissent - Student: bad time for listening session for students, need to be many more undergraduate students on the Search Committee - Professor: search is not open and inclusive, President must be external candidate, experience in challenging violence against the marginalized, academic background - Professor: value balance, record of creating academic communities 	

- Professor: vision for increasing campus diversity, speak well on issues of inclusion, commit to backing up claims with resources
- Professor: build trust within the community, includes the consent of the governed, has read the Federalist Papers and the Morrill Act, authoritative not authoritarian, active listener, academics before athletics
- Professor: make this a welcoming campus, transparency
- Professor: need representation from residential colleges
- Professor: urgent need to build trust, most obvious need is an external academic candidate, students and victims in the center of what we do
- Professor: commitment to staff, sensitivity to various experiences, innovative, not transactional focused but personal
- Student: recognize the bravery it takes for survivors to stand up
- Student: do not trust the administration, value safety and free speech over branding

Responses to 2nd Question:

Higher education is facing many challenges today. What do you consider to be the major challenges facing MSU?

- Professor/Chair: lack of faculty input, show that the community is being listened to
- Professor: lack of trust in the Board by MSU and the state at large, concerns over cost, safety, and corruption, must be external scholar and change maker
- Professor: top down decision making, no survivors on search committee, Joel Ferguson is on the committee, John Engler is President, all factors into lack of trust
- Professor: new president will come out of process that has been compromised, need to add survivors, students, and faculty and remove Trustees from the search committee, top down institutional culture
- Student: Greek Life (particularly fraternities) produces an unhealthy sexual/racial culture, new president should reform Greek Life dealings
- Professor: cost is an issue, also wait time to get into the counseling center
- Professor: cost is an issue, needs to value inclusion for whole community
- Professor: Trustees should spend more time with Deans than Athletics
- Staff: new president needs to implement accessible technology, focus on affordable educations, better resources for student affairs

Responses to 3rd Question:

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

- Professor: students who need full involvement
- Professor: many resources on campus who can help president rebuild, no matter who is hired
- Student: students, who should be listened to
- Professor: students, faculty, and staff who have spoken up, provided proposals, participated in shared governance, opportunities for collaboration
- Staff: legacy and tradition, community engagement, active student body, alumni
- Professor: we have a state perspective and serve the people, focus on education rather than metrics
- Professor: people are our strength, we are friendly and welcoming, have top notch programs and a public focus
- Professor/Chair: residential colleges, serve as an asset to attract a candidate, best examples of living/learning communities and collaboratively tackling tough problems

General Comments:

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Other:

- Foster: hiring of search firm, future input sessions
- Rifiotis: student forums upcoming
- Sullivan: Search website, nominations are public

