

Group gathers input on presidential qualifications

The Presidential Search Committee said it wanted input regarding desirable qualifications for MSU's next president — and numerous members of the University community stepped forward to provide it.

During two-hour sessions in Kellogg Center on Jan. 27 and 28, the committee heard 20 presentations from a range of administrators, faculty, staff and students — some speaking individually and some on behalf of organized groups.

In addition to being wide-ranging, the presidential attributes sought by presenters were, as one presenter put it, “largely intangible and hard to measure.”

According to the presenters, MSU's next president should, among other things:

- possess vision, commitment and leadership in minority issues.
- show concern for students with mental health problems.
- treat students as “customers” as well as “products.”
- make each employee feel valued.
- assess the campus climate through status reports on women and minorities.
- support “pure academics” that are not directly related to job skills.
- be a “people person” who sees all

employees as equals.

- provide greater service to non-traditional students.
- promote student involvement in community service.
- be a “creative financial genius.”
- be a respected scholar with full academic credentials.
- have a vision for MSU not as a Michigan university, but as an international university located in Michigan.
- cultivate a relationship with rank-and-file faculty.

The 17-member search committee will

meet next at 6 p.m. Feb. 18 in 61 Kellogg Center so members can share similar input gathered from their various constituent groups.

A writing subcommittee will then draft a qualifications statement for consideration by the full committee at a meeting set for 6 p.m. Feb. 25, also in 61 Kellogg Center.

The subcommittee members are Trustee Robert Weiss, chairperson; Trustee Joel Ferguson; William Abbett, dean of the College of Human Medicine; Gloria Smith, professor of counseling, educational psychology and special education; and James Schaper, graduate student.