

Search group to discuss procedures

With a "Statement of Qualifications for the President of Michigan State University" in place, the 17-member Presidential Search Committee is now deciding how to proceed with its task.

The committee will meet next at 6 p.m. March 18 in 61 Kellogg Center to discuss search procedures, particularly maintaining candidate confidentiality and complying with the Open Meetings Act.

The qualifications statement was approved at the committee's Feb. 25 meeting. A draft statement prepared by a five-member writing subcommittee was amended after extensive discussion.

The statement addresses qualities of the president with regard to style of leadership, academic vision, planning, commitment to diversity and financial resource management.

The statement notes that the "desired personal and professional qualifications are not listed in order of priority, nor is it expected that candidates will possess all of them in equal degree." The full text of the statement appears on page 2.

Statement lists qualifications for 'U' president

Editor's Note: Following is the full text of the "Statement of Qualifications for the President of Michigan State University," which was approved by the Presidential Search Committee on Feb. 25.

The president is selected by the Board of Trustees and is the chief executive officer of MSU, and in conjunction with the board is responsible for promoting the interests of the University. The president is accountable to the board for managing and directing all the University's affairs. The president provides leadership of the academic, operational, financial and other programs of the University; gains support for University activities from state government, state and federal agencies, public and private associations, corporations and businesses, alumni and the citizens of Michigan; and represents the University to diverse constituencies in state, regional, national and international spheres.

The next-president of MSU must possess energy, initiative, integrity, a drive for excellence and a record of leadership achievements as an executive. The president shall have advanced knowledge of, and deep

appreciation for, classroom education and life-long learning, the responsibilities of research and the public commitments of a state-supported, land-grant university. The following desired personal and professional qualifications are not listed in order of priority, nor is it expected that candidates will possess all of them in equal degree.

Style of leadership — MSU needs a president with the ability to work effectively with all internal and external constituencies: the Board of Trustees, alumni, staff, faculty, students, the governor, legislators and citizens of Michigan. The president should be an articulate communicator who can credibly and clearly promote the image and programs of the University to varied constituencies and a sensitive listener who values the perspectives of the diverse groups who make up the University community. The president should be a consensus builder and conflict resolver who empowers an executive team, faculty, staff and students to make the difficult decisions to adapt the University for the 21st century.

Academic vision — The president should have the ability to cooperatively develop and communicate a vision for MSU. The

president must be committed to the land-grant mission of MSU and have the capacity to develop it for the 21st century to provide affordable access to traditional, non-traditional and lifelong education students; to address societal problems; and to serve people in the state, in the nation and around the world. Equally important, MSU is an Association of American Universities institution, and the president should be able to secure support that will enhance its stature as a major research university providing quality education for undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

Planning — The next president must have the ability to work with vice presidents, deans, faculty, staff and students to implement a plan of action based on a vision of the missions of the University. Practical responses to current and future challenges to higher education will require that the president understand the culture of a large university; alternative approaches to teaching, research and outreach; concerns of faculty, students and staff; and the interests of external communities.

Commitment to diversity — The next

president shall be an exemplar of commitment to equity and opportunity in a diverse community. There must be leadership in recruitment, advancement and retention of minorities and women as students, faculty, staff and administrators. The president shall lead the University in its quest to identify and fully utilize the benefits of diversity of cultures and individuals for academic programs and other activities of the University and society at large.

Financial resource management

Recognizing the difficult financial environment, the next president must have the ability to enhance the good will of those who have previously supported the University and to raise funds from government, private donors, associations and corporations. The president must be able to lead the University in developing creative responses to budgetary requirements and in making difficult decisions about the allocation of funds, consistent with a clear vision of the University's mission. This will require knowledge of sound fiscal management and contemporary business practices.