

President Maloney's Campus Conversations

May 9, 2018, 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fuller Aud, Administration Building

- President said he would continue these forums into the next academic year
- Graduate and Undergraduate Commencements will take place next week
 - Governor Baker will be the Commencement speaker at Undergraduate Commencement
 - Eugene Bah, class of 2012, will also be speaking at Undergraduate Commencement
 - President thanked everyone for the roles they play with all of the year end celebrations
 - If you are looking to help out or play a role, please talk to Michael McKenna, Director of Conference and Events Services
 - Parents and students are expecting to see us all there
 - We will be connecting reunion weekend at Commencement Weekend
- The MA State Budget has a 1% increase in the Governor's proposal for public higher ed; passed the House level funded and awaits action in the Senate
 - The Internship Incentive Program looks like it will still be funded at the million dollar level
 - This is a matching incentive of about \$100,000 for us
 - We have pitched next year's budget to the Board of Trustees which did include a ceiling level fee increase
 - This leaves us with flexibility should we receive more state dollars
 - President is working with University Advancement on the number of private dollars we can raise
 - The majority of our dollars raised goes to scholarships
 - We have received the monies from the Sheehan Estate
 - These dollars will go towards scholarships and aid for students as well as to the Honors Program and study abroad
 - We will continue to look at growing our transfer numbers and retaining our current students
- The Climate Committee's report and implementation process
 - The committee was put in place for more than a year
 - The committee is working on a self study for employees
 - Based off the student data the President received a list of recommendations and has been working on strategies to put in play for the fall
 - The President will send the committee a response to their recommendations
 - We plan to share a finalized plan on Opening Day
 - We will make sure that these plans are incorporated into our strategic plan
- A question was asked about the level of appropriation from MA to WSU
 - A percentage of the operating budget is about 43% which includes fringe benefits
 - MA now ranks 47% in terms of financial aid to our students

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- The Governor is putting forth seven million dollars of casino money to help students at Community Colleges
 - Should the casino revenues continue to meet projections the monies would also begin to help the State Universities and UMass in year two and beyond
- A State Rep from Lexington, MA talked about looking into campus closures; the State University Presidents responded saying that is not the right thing to do
- A question was asked about the Chemistry Department needing new equipment and whether there might be an alumni who would be interested in donating some equipment
 - We have had some success in alumni donations
 - Namely the Aisiku STEM Center and the Singh donations, both of which benefited the sciences
 - We are looking currently into classroom technology and tools
 - HECCMA and the science faculty are looking into shared resources
 - President is also exploring ways to share resources with Fitchburg State, QCC and MWCC
- A question was asked about a policy committee that was recently formed; what is the charge and what are some examples of what will be looked at?
 - The committee, chaired by Anisa Hoxa has begun its work again, it has been an established committee for quite some time
 - There is a backlog of policies to review and archive
 - President introduced Jonathan Walker, the new Director of Internal Controls and Risk Management
 - Folks have been asking for where non-academic policy resides, this committee will help with that
 - Academic policies go through the Academic Policies governance committee
- A question was asked about instituting a Masters of Fine Arts
 - President would be happy to talk about it, but has not seen a proposal
 - The Board of Higher Education has not been to keen on approving new humanities based proposals
- A statement was made about aligning our policies and plans along with the population of our campus
 - We also hear this sentiment from our students through the Climate Committee
 - President and Joe DiCarlo, Director of Admissions explained the work that is being done for gender identity on campus
 - We need representative students on our governance committees
- A question was asked about instate tuition for students affected by the Hurricanes
 - The Department of Higher Education is still determining if they will continue to provide in state tuition
- President congratulated everyone on a great year