

President Maloney's Campus Conversations

October 4, 2017, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Fuller Aud, Administration Building

- President gave a general overview of what these conversations are
- President took a moment of silence to remember folks impacted over a tragic fall, with hurricanes in Puerto Rico and elsewhere, Las Vegas shooting, passing of colleague Cathie Novick
- President gave an update on the Art and Science Positioning Study and what we hope to gain from that study
- President talked about the upcoming challenges facing higher education in New England, given the shrinking number of 18 year olds
- We are engaged in campus climate initiatives, related to an inclusive campus environment
 - We recently did a campus climate survey
 - We just received the self-report and we will begin to develop action plans and put teams in place to carry out these plans
- President encouraged students, faculty and staff to be engaged on campus
 - Asked that students get involved on Governance Committees
- President mentioned a memo that came out from purchasing regarding getting contracts in soon and the need to plan ahead
- President mentioned Dr. Thomas Conroy's WSU history book that will be completed this fall
- President mentioned the Change Lives Capital Campaign just having completed
 - Raised a lot of money for student scholarships
- A question was asked about what types of projects are upcoming for WSU given that we just built some new buildings
 - Last year we began looking at academic space needs
 - We acquired, through the WSU Foundation, the May Street Building
 - We will be doing some deferred maintenance projects, as we saw this summer with the new roof on the Student Center
 - The state is not really funding large projects at this time
- What is the estimated date of completion and how will the results be shared for the positioning study
 - The study will be completed the end of the calendar year
 - We will develop talking points for the university, but this study is expected to provide some proprietary strategic direction for WSU
 - The plan will be implemented, beginning the following year
- A question was asked about what is happening on the sidewalk and road construction on Chandler and May Streets

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- The city started doing this work over the summer, and had conducted a study of traffic and pedestrian patterns some time before that with our support
 - We believe they will finish this first phase by the end of October
- The aim is to improve vehicle and pedestrian traffic around WSU, as well as around the May Street and Chandler Magnet schools
- The city has proposed a phase 2 which includes several options, some of which we support, others we do not support
- They added some support for accessibility/ADA, curb cuts and the like
- A question was asked about the new ofo bike share program in Worcester
 - Ofo is an Uber-like bike sharing company that has launched 400 bikes in Worcester
 - You use the ofo app, find a bike and go
 - It is \$1 for a hour and \$.50 for a student
 - We expect to have many bikes on our campus soon – as a depot for some, and bikes can be found via the app throughout the city
 - We are the second city in the country to partner with ofo
 - The bikes will be "reset" every so often
 - The bikes will be taken off the road in December and put back in the spring
 - This initiative was driven by college students with the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
- A student brought to the president's attention three incidents that led to not feeling safe on campus that concerned a racial slur, inappropriate classroom language, and condescending language while working on campus.
 - President indicated there are staff in the room who would follow up immediately after the meeting
 - There are reporting options for students to report issues with other students
 - This is why we did the climate study, we hope to change these behaviors
- A question was asked about what a typical day looks like for President Maloney
 - President just met with Commissioner Santiago about some of the projects President Maloney is working on
 - President has a mix of on campus and off campus activities and meetings
 - The time of the year does change what the typical day looks like
 - The early fall and late spring is a lot of time on campus
 - The late winter and early spring is a lot of travel to meet with alumni and donors

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- President proposed open forums so he can hear from different populations from the campus
- President would be happy to attend classes and meet with students in classes or at student organization groups