

Campus Conversations with the President

November 14, 2018 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Administration Building, Fuller Auditorium

- President welcomed the group
- President congratulated the APA Union for getting their contract through
 - Pay increases should be adjusted shortly
- Our Board of Trustees supported the President's recommendation that our proposed fee schedule for AY2019-2020 be frozen
- We are still working towards the architectural study of the May Street Building to primarily benefit our academic space needs
 - Both the Foundation Board, who owns the building, and the Board of Trustees will be very engaged with this process
- President mentioned the great speaker that was on campus on November 13th, Bakari Sellers, kudos to Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development
- Our on campus meetings with Academic Partnerships to help WSU build out two online Master's programs
- Our two new Master's programs are before the BHE
 - A Master's of Public Administration and Policy and a Master's of Public Management
- Vice President Ryan Forsythe gave an update on the Gender Identity Subcommittee which is working on Gender Inclusivity Issues
 - From the Campus Climate Committee, the LGBTQ community informed us that they feel the most unwelcomed on campus. We are working on ways for everyone to feel welcome and safe on campus
 - The committee has been working on policies and procedures for any student on campus to identify their legal name, their chosen name, their legal sex, their chosen gender, and their preferred pronouns
 - There have been several gender Inclusivity workshops over the last few weeks, there will be a Gender Identity Academic Symposium on Thursday, March 28, 2019
 - There are other gender-related issues, including those around plumbing codes that we would like to see updated that would help us with issues around gender inclusive bathrooms
- Sustainability Day went very well, turnout was great
 - There was a cookout
 - Information booths
 - Electric car test drives
 - A reading of a children's environmental, book with two area elementary schools
- A question was asked about how the President thought the Bakari Sellers lecture went
 - The President enjoyed the lectured and shared some anecdotes
- A question was asked about who a professor should talk to about data on shifting demographics in New England
 - We will be sending out the Department of Higher Education's early enrollment report
 - This report shows enrollment trends over the last ten years as well as demographic shifts

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- 70% of public high school students in Massachusetts attend public colleges and universities in Massachusetts
- Here is a link to that report:
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/sarah.mealey#!/vizhome/Fall2018EnrollmentTrends/Story?publish=yes>
- A question was raised about Gender Inclusive Housing and if there are any plans to change policies on Gender Inclusive Housing
 - The President wants to make sure that every student on campus feels at home, welcomed and safe
 - A follow up statement from the student mentioned that the space is limited and the policies can be limiting
 - The President will follow up with the student who asked the question and any other students facing similar issues
- President wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving