

Campus Conversations with President Maloney

November 5, 2019 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Administration Building, Fuller Auditorium

- President welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending
- There was a Board of Trustees Academic and Student Development subcommittee meeting today
 - The Board voted to approve the Occupational Therapy Clinical Doctorate
 - We still have several steps to take before we can get approval from the state to offer these doctorates
 - We will be the first application of any of the State Universities to submit an application to offer a doctorate degree
 - The Board of Trustees feedback was very helpful and supportive
- On Friday, November 1, 2019, members of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Higher Education were on campus to meet with faculty, students and senior leadership officials
 - Adam Zahler noted several topics that were discussed at the faculty meeting including student counselling and degree offerings
 - The senior leadership team talked about financial aid dollars, budgeting matters, and clinical doctorates among other topics
 - Senator Gobi, one of the Co-Chairs and a WSU alum, talked about closing financial aid gaps for students
 - That number, for Massachusetts, could be one billion dollars, for WSU the total gap number is \$34,000,000
 - The K-12 system is on track to get 1.5 billion dollars in new monies
- The House and Senate could not reach consensus on the supplemental budget and therefore it has not passed
- The President had a meeting this morning regarding the May Street Building
 - You can see the four options that the architects proposed and showed the Trustees in September can be found by going to:
<https://www.worcester.edu/Board-of-Trustees-Packets/>
 - The images shown are placeholders
 - Our attention is focused towards option one
 - We will go through the process to see what we can afford and how much that option would cost
 - We are targeting for a 2023 opening
 - It will be geared towards supporting our academic space needs
 - It will allow us to add more wet lab space to the Ghosh Science and Technology Center
- A question was asked about the percentage of students seeking support through Student Accessibility Services and the Counseling Center has increased and have we looked at increase support for those offices which would support more students
 - The President is aware that there have been a significant increase of visits to those offices
 - Mental Health is a national crisis and we are seeing this on campus

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- We have to come up with strategies to address these concerns
 - Overcoming these issues will also assist us in retention
- Two years ago we added a staff member to each of these offices to help manage the increase
- The President and Dean Kazarian have discussed this recently to see if there are ways to partner with third parties, similarly how we do with Health Services through Umass Memorial
- Brown University has a model a lot of colleges are looking at right now
- The President is happy to take suggestions on this matter
- Dean Kazarian added that Counseling Services now has one counselor dedicated to triage every day
- The President would encourage the Psychology Department to engage with the counseling department
- A question was asked about the options being looked at for May Street and if we were looking at renovating
 - The current building is about 70,000 square feet, 50-55K square feet is usable currently
 - This is our target for the academic new building
 - Because of the way the current building is built and cost, renovating is not really an option
- A question was asked about where current offices inside the May Street Building will go during construction
 - At this time we do not know where they will go, however we are strategizing about where and we are having conversations with current occupants about the timeline
- President congratulated the Urban Studies Department for the launch of their MPAP and MPM programs, our first two Master's programs in 10 years
 - Classes will begin in Spring 2020
 - To learn more please contact either Urban Studies or DGCE
- The next Campus Conversations will be held on December 4, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fuller Auditorium
 - Please share these meetings and minutes with your colleagues
 - If there is a question you would like to hear more about, please email President Maloney
 - President Maloney would also make himself available to attend a departmental meeting of yours