

Town Hall meeting with President Morgan

Date: May 7, 2020

Location: via Web Ex

Start time: 3:45 p.m.

Faculty Senate has received some questions from constituents in advance of the Town Hall. All questions will be typed into the discussion panel so that everyone may see the question. Other questions may be asked during the meeting.

Questions:

1. We would like a brief budget update which includes potential unit reductions and justifications for those reductions.

**Morgan:**

- Current FY update. Keep in mind these budget numbers are fluid. Ends 06/30...was sound until March... stability fell out returning 1.9 million for housing. Direct payments gone out for the most part.
- Dining fees: returning just over 1 million after adjustments net=2-300,000.
- Notified of 1% cut immediately by state (\$385-390,000.00)
- Need to readjust summer numbers. Not a bad adjustment because most is already online.
- He feels we can get to June 30 in and “ok” spot. “fairly reasonable”
- July 1—right now, new students coming in are sluggish—est. new students down about 200. Hope to make these up over summer. Housing deposits are also sluggish—we can house up to 3100 (run 92-93%), right now about 2300 housing deposits. This could be ok since at this time we could place student 1-2 to a room. Planning state budget give back about 2% range. He expects possibly a significant state appropriate reduction this year. \$5-6000,000.00 in student scholarship—good amount, but reduces what we get in our tuition.
- 2% state appropriations stop loss (\$700,000) and some change.
- May 7<sup>th</sup>—today, we are going to have to “skinny down” some. Renegotiating contracts---doing anything we can think of to pull money. May still need to hit the rainy-day fund.
- Expects another state budget cut this summer.
- Expect budget strain for next year
- Departments asked to reduce budgets by 5%? Yes, that is correct. VP’s submitted a 5% reduction. He has to close a budget tomorrow and get ready for the BOR report. Our budget discussions will go on through the summer and into the fall.
- Administrators pay cut? Have discussed this—as part of long and short-term feature. As of today, we have not asked anyone to take a pay cut. We have a long way to go, so everything is on the table.
- St. Claire Community College suspending athletics for 1-year. Would MSU consider this? MORGAN: We have going into the next fiscal year made reductions in athletics that equal what you see across campus. We are having discussions with OVC to see where in general where athletics lies for the foreseeable future. Contracts related to athletics that bring in money could be compromised.
- Sluggishness? Any chance for marketing to do some targeted marketing? Are there people who can be trained to help departments with marketing? MORGAN:--Lots of people have

been helping make phone class and work through social media. We appropriated 4-6 people over to Michell Barbers area to make phone calls and reach out. We reduced Graduate course tuition by \$600...hoping that will help, but it did come with a price. Not sure they have the people power to reach out to specific departments. The world moves very slowly now...it has been difficult getting news agencies to help get the word out.

2. What is the update on CARES funds (\$6 million divided between students and institution)? Has the university received the funding? What is the plan for expending funds?

MSU scheduled to receive 6-6.1 million 50% direct appropriate to students. We have begun to draw down those monies. Among 3 million to students...no stipulation as to how they have to use these funds...fairly soon we will push much of that money out. MSU has about 12 months to spend the rest of the money. Stipulations for the 3.1 the institution gets. We are working through that \$90-295 thousand—he would like to set off to the side for just in case.

3. Will there be faculty furloughs? What would that look like?

- Fair question...MSU has worked to reduce general rather not go to furloughs and layoffs until we have more information. We can't promise that we will not have furloughs etc. his philosophy is that we look to try to reduce that possibility. The other side of that means that we have to draw money from other areas to cover.
- Pinch point is in August. Pell and other aid will come in at that time...also payments plans...the bulk of our \$ to operate will come in there...we don't get more in until January. If we do not get money in at this pinch point-it will be catastrophic.
- Next pinch point will be November economic (state running short on funds—expect another reduction), we might need to move to furloughs if we can't absorb it.
- Next pinch point February 2021-what does spring semester look like?
- It will be irresponsible for us to not build in an unexpected reduction. BOR meets in June—that might be a time to look at this.

4. Should the University open in August, what special accommodations will be put in place to protect vulnerable students, staff, and faculty? This population might include those over 60 and those with various chronic health conditions.

As of today...MSU put together 5 VP units having discussions on 2 sets of goals. When Gov gives OK to open. What does that look like for MSU? General feeling: not surprised that June is an opening date—do not advertise. We need to take June/July very slowly reopen campus for employees with doors locked. Bring people back slowly. Maybe 20 hours on campus/20 hours off. The biggest place where things need to be done is in student services. The things that students need in order to come on to campus.

5. What is the constituency of the opening plan workgroups? When is work scheduled to end and decision announced?

MORGAN: We did put constituent leaders on workgroups. We have been working with the Governor on a 6-8 point plan (all higher ed) for policy. He should start to give some approvals soon. Asked VP's to get some first thoughts—not final—to him so he can get a sense of what groups are thinking.

Maybe modified semester? Set your courses to be Hybrid-based and be ready. If you could teach on campus---great, if not have a plan. This is not a “one-size fits all” situation. Encourage faculty to

have conversations to see what works with your disciplines, the accreditation agencies, etc. Be ready to limit face to face exposure. Might need to roll over the large auditoriums and large classrooms to accommodate smaller groups all day. He likes the Hybrid model.

6. How are decisions being made regarding shift of faculty/ staff into teaching need areas Fall semester?

We suspended a number of faculty searches (did not like it—but we had to). Too many unknown variables. He would rather have a commitment for people on campus right now.

7. Are there workgroups regarding shift of faculty/staff for teaching? When is work scheduled to end and decision announced?

Commitment toward the economic wellbeing of our current faculty. To Provost—use our people and our assets as best we can. Here's what it could look like: we do not have a good feel of the freshman population of courses. There are discussions with deans and chairs to see what faculty are available to teach the heavily loaded classes. He would rather pay a faculty overload or stipend then try to bring in new faculty.

8. What instructional, pedagogic, and technology supports are being planned for faculty/staff teaching online in Fall?

Asked Howes to order another big shipment of laptops—he doesn't want any faculty working at MSU to have a computer older than 4 years old. If you need a camera, or laptop, ask your chair/dean/provost. IF you are teaching online we will get you, to the best we can, the equipment you need.

9. What is the constituency of the workgroups regarding the instructional, pedagogic, and technology supports? When is work scheduled to end and decision announced?

10. What is the university's legal liability if we open the campus and hundreds of faculty, staff, and students become infected and some die? If we are sued, especially in a class action suit, could we survive as an institution?

#### Questions:

MORGAN: we can have a follow up later if we do not get to the questions that attendees have.

Kim Sharp—If we retire laptops could they go out to students? On the surface that looks like a good idea. I would have to look at the contracts we have out to see what happens if students do not turn a computer back in.

TUERK: CRAFT academy going to be residential? MORGAN: "I sure hope so". We were scheduled to expand it by 14 additional incoming juniors for the fall semester. We may have to look at spreading these students out...our CRAFT academy is operated from a policy and legal vehicle outside of normal K-12 parameters, I hope we can get them back, but there will be alot of discussions about this.

TUERK: Lab fees? Can we use the money to support students in a variety of ways? MORGAN: lab fees can only be used in specific ways—if we are hybrid-based...he could support maybe using lab fees to purchase online virtual software that would fulfill the needs of the online labs. As long as we maintain the integrity of the student lab experience.

David Long—Athletics—do we decline together or is there a point where athletics declines at a steeper rate? MORGAN: No not all activities would decline at the same rate. I do admit that athletics can be a target, pleased in conversations with Dir. Gordon, athletics has to do their fair share. Athletics is almost like an accredited program...Having difficult discussions with athletics as well as in other areas that is not academics related. Athletics is not the only area that has scrutiny here. We've had some difficult decisions here. We're going to try to support our main mission (teaching/research/service). There are some areas we would really like to have ...but if we get pushed, there's probably going to be a significant budget apin to some of them. Would rather make decisions with good information—proactive rather than reactive. It is difficult to support all the teams we have...don't get a rumor started. I'm a proponent of looking at things...all deserve careful consideration.

Adams—what if you are in a unit that has a low enrollment? What happens to those faculty? MORGAN: we might actually be having smaller classes this year. Look at classes which are required for students to graduate. Would like to keep faculty teaching in their disciplines rather than FYS. Late June will paint a better picture of student enrollment.

Shana Savard-Hogge: Research F and A called back, what does that mean for faculty research? MORGAN: there was a need this spring semester F and A dollars that were derived off previous fiscal year to close a budget gap. We left intact for the PI's use, the new indirect cost dollars model for the PI—I think was 10% funds will roll over into the next fiscal year. Next fiscal year we have F and A money in the budget. Right now the intent is to hold funds until January and if we can, we would release those funds per normal protocol. Yes, still a commitment to service and research at this institution.

MORGAN: Maybe another town hall when we get more information from the Governor. Lennex: yes, we would love to schedule a “discussion”. We've gotta figure out a way to make this ship run. We can figure this out. There's no boogey man who w ants to jump out from a bush. We want to protect what we are here for.

End time: 5:00 p.m.