

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Open forums Tuesday to discuss qualities of new Provost;
campus input sought for OU values statement
January 7, 2020

Happy New Year and welcome to the start of 2020.

As a diverse, inclusive and open campus community, there are always a range of viewpoints to consider, especially as we strive to be The University of Choice.

In that regard, as 2020 commences, there are two specific areas where your participation and input are needed:

- 1.) The qualities and character of the next Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

- 2.) The principles that should be a part of the university's values statement, which will be drafted subsequent to gathering feedback from the university community.

On Tuesday, January 14, consultants from Isaacson Miller will hold open forums for faculty, students and staff to participate in a discussion regarding the qualifications and key traits of the next provost. Isaacson Miller, a nationally renowned firm, has been retained to manage the search in consultation with an 18-member committee that I appointed in mid-December.

To accommodate everyone's busy schedules, there will be three one-hour sessions at 9 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. in Founders Ballroom B at the Oakland Center.

The forums present opportunities for the university community to openly discuss the challenges, expectations and priorities of the next provost, who as the chief academic officer, is charged with the responsibility for the development, growth, and quality of all academic programs and related support functions.

In addition to the open forums, information regarding the search committee members, nomination process and search timeline will be available on a webpage, which will be live in the next week.

I look forward to hearing your views, and know the search committee will find your thoughts invaluable as they consider the profile for our next chief academic officer.

OU Values Statement

In the past two-and-a-half years, we have collectively refined our mission and vision statements. But, our identity as a university is also bound by the values we share.

In the next week, we will begin to reach out to listen and keep track of your views on the principles that reflect OU's values.

A values board will soon be available on the main floor of the Oakland Center. You are invited to contribute to this board by either selecting from the list words that you feel represent OU's values or contributing your own words or thoughts to help us select the defining principles in our value statement.

In the upcoming weeks, members of the values statement committee will reach out to faculty, students and staff to ensure we hear from as many members of the OU community as possible.

Our values must represent all of us.

Based on your input, the formal values statement will be drafted and submitted to the Oakland University Board of Trustees for approval in the spring.

Let's all work together to make sure 2020 is a truly memorable year in the lives of our students and the community.

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