Executive Vice President and Provost 2021 Search
Faculty, Staff and Student Town Hall Feedback Summary

On February 3, 2021, two virtual town halls gathered input on the 2021 executive vice president and provost search from Ohio State faculty, staff, and students.

The town hall sessions included remarks by the search committee co-chairs, Dr. Susan Olesik, divisional dean of natural and mathematical sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Grace Wang, executive vice president for research, innovation, and knowledge enterprise. Search committee student panelists were Sarah Danelius, DVM Candidate Class 2024, College of Veterinary Medicine and Dan Lesman, Undergrad student Class of 2021, College of Medicine - Biomedical Sciences.

The town halls included a question-and-answer session and discussions about the academic environment and the desired qualifications of the next executive vice president and provost. Highlights include the following:

Key academic affairs challenges and opportunities:
• Academic vision: Key challenges/opportunities include relevancy to future of learning needs; interdisciplinary scholarship and metrics; transition to and implementation of new General Education curriculum; developing the technology, staffing, and partnerships to build on our R1 land grant research infrastructure; developing balance between all parts of the academic endeavor; building support for interdisciplinary research and teaching; ensuring that our students and faculty have access to support services for teaching and learning; support for originality, science, and innovation.
• Distance, Experiential, Adaptive and Global Learning: Engaging with all learners and using online learning to support nontraditional students; student access to high-impact, experiential learning opportunities; creative solutions to incorporate global learning initiatives; implementation of Framework 2.0, including development at the West Campus Innovation District, and the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory; taking advantage of online and hybrid teaching modalities; strengthening international initiatives. This theme became even more prominent due to pandemic impacts. Opportunities have emerged to enhance distance learning based education, sustaining online courses or hybrid options post-pandemic.
• Diversity and Inclusion: Integrating racial justice into scholarship and teaching; vision for Ohio State to be a model of inclusivity for all audiences especially underrepresented minorities; increased importance of diversity, inclusion, and equity; ensuring that non-traditional students can access the university’s resources, especially in STEM.
• Other Themes included environmental resilience and sustainability; social justice issues; changing views on higher education; increasing political /cultural strife and acrimony.

Ideal accomplishments of the next provost:
• Academic vision: Metric for success is a balance among art, humanities, social and political, as well as STEM fields; commitment to the university’s mission to ensure students receive an education encouraging them to be engaged citizens; valuing the General Education curriculum; commitment to producing educated citizens rather than just ‘job ready’ workers; maintaining and growing Ohio State’s reputation for academic and research excellence; promoting experiential teaching, like mentoring undergraduate researchers, implementing service-learning courses, and teaching honors courses.
• **Diversity and Inclusion:** Incorporate rewards in promotion and tenure review to encourage minority faculty to support minority students; hire faculty and recruit students who better reflect the diversity of the country and the world; focus on Ohio State’s goal of becoming a global university; a university that is more diverse, dynamic and of equal opportunity; in five years, to revitalize the faculty by reflecting the demography of the USA; increased feelings of inclusion among people from minority/pressed groups with tangible outcomes measured by equity audits.

• **Regional campuses:** Continuation of the one-university model and land-grant mission where regional campuses provide the same student experience as the Columbus campus; include regional campuses in plans for growth; more resources for regional campuses.

• **Other themes:** Balancing the idea of a “global campus” vision with our role in serving the state of Ohio; ensuring that the technical infrastructure receives resources to support new learning modes.

**Ideal candidate qualifications and experiences:** Resilience, persistence, compassion; knows “land grant mission” and a public institution’s advantages and liabilities; experience with an Extension system; practical and academic graduate and undergraduate experience; liaison between academia, the community, and corporate engagement; previous leadership in a large university; established record of supporting diversity, equity and inclusion efforts; proven success in working with minority faculty and a profound grasp of equity and social justice; understanding of promotion and tenure and how the process can be problematic for faculty of color; innovative and pushes against the status quo; demonstrated experience developing cross-organizational research commitment and achievement; a good listener; committed to both liberal arts and professional education; a faculty advocate; understands shared governance; strong advocate for the importance of the humanities; encourages the values of transparency and integrity, especially under the auspices of research integrity; advances and supports the social sciences, arts, and humanities while still championing the hard sciences; integrates the effort of all researchers no matter the disciplinary focus; demonstrated experience in speaking to non-academics (voters, legislators, etc.) about the value of higher education.

**Personal attributes most important for this role:** Listening to constituents before making assumptions; curiosity; adaptability; creative thinker; excellent communication skills; visionary; bold and unafraid to challenge oppression; involved; creatively solving challenging situations; self-awareness of their social identities; willingness to take chances; committed to making hard choices to move the institution forward; commitment to anti-racism; empathy; collaborative; ethical; committed to transparency; ability to update deans regularly and keep them accountable for informing faculty and department chairs; continued support of the faculty fellow model to encourage faculty to gain administrative leadership skills; equally value the unique contributions of staff.