

Faculty Senate Spring Roundtable April 22, 2022

The 2022 Faculty Senate Spring Roundtable, co-hosted by the Office of the President and the Robert Holland Faculty Senate, met on April 22, 2022, at the Mill Conference Center. The purpose of the Roundtable was to allow faculty and administration to discuss opportunities for advancing the *MSU Plan for Transformational Change: Research and Exposures*. The Roundtable discussion placed emphasis on the Campus Community and Healthy, Sustainable Growth sections of this document.

In order of occurrence, Missy Hopper began the Roundtable with a call to order welcome after lunch at 1:00 followed by a Roundtable overview by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis. Information was presented about the *MSU Plan for Transformational Change* by David Shaw, and a welcome address was extended to the group by Dr. Mark Keenum.

For the emphasis areas, three questions were prepared to generate ideas for responding to the *Transformational Change* document. Questions for each area are listed below.

Transform the Campus Community

Objective—Enhance MSU’s collegiate appeal to faculty, students, and alumnae.

1. What initiatives should be developed to invest in a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment to make MSU and Starkville a “best place to be”?
2. What strategies should be developed to integrate the campus with Starkville and the community at large e.g., access, transportation, beautification, K-12 education, shopping, etc.?
3. What actions are needed to modernize and upgrade campus facilities, infrastructure, and technology?

Ensure Healthy, Sustainable Growth

Objective—Position MSU to best meet the challenges facing the higher education environment.

1. What initiatives can MSU take to be the college of choice for nontraditional students?
2. Based on what was learned during our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, what initiatives can be used to increase resources to improve student success?
3. How can MSU become more strategic in developing new academic programs that would best meet the needs of students and employers?

Participants were divided into two teams, the Maroon Team and the White Team. Team members along with their campus connections are listed in the following tables.

Maroon Team	
Dr. Jason Barrett	Associate Extension Professor, Water Resources
Dr. Terry Dale Cruse	Associate Vice President & Head, MSU Meridian
Dr. Marina Denny	Associate Professor, School of Human Sciences
Dr. Regina Hyatt	Vice President, Student Affairs
Dr. Teresa Jayroe	Dean & Professor, College of Education

Dr. Julie Jordan	Vice President, Research & Economic Development
Mr. Derek Marshall	Associate Professor, University Libraries
Dr. Michael Nadorff	Associate Professor & Director, Psychology
Dr. Andy Perkins	Professor, Computer Science & Engineering
Dr. Beth Stokes	Associate Professor, Sustainable Bioproducts
Dr. Kathleen Thomas	Professor & Head, Finance & Economics
Dr. Don Zant	Vice President, Finance & Administration
Dr. Rebecca Robichaux- Davis (Facilitator)	Professor, Curriculum, Instruction, & Special Education

White Team	
Dr. Bimal Balakrishnan	Associate Dean & Professor, College of Arch, Art, & Design
Mr. Robert Banik	Instructor, Mathematics & Statistics
Ms. Ra'Sheda Boddie-Forbes	Vice President, Access, Diversity, & Inclusion
Dr. Brian Davis	Associate Professor, Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture
Dr. Robin Fontenot	Associate Clinical Professor, CVM Pathobiology/ Pop Med
Dr. Stephanie King	Professor, Educational Leadership
Ms. Lyndsey Miller	Associate Professor, Interior Design
Dr. Matthew Priddy	Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Mr. John Rush	Vice President, Development & Alumni
Dr. David Shaw	Provost & Executive Vice President
Dr. LaShan Simpson	Associate Professor, Ag & Bio Engineering
Dr. Scott Willard	Dean & Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dr. Missy Hopper (Facilitator)	Professor, Curriculum, Instruction, & Special Education

Each team was asked to brainstorm in two separate sessions to answer the questions proposed. Participants were then asked to rank by voting on their top three responses. Keeping in the spirit of anonymity established by Roundtable guidelines, both teams' responses have been combined. The top suggestions as designated by majority votes are recorded under each question. Some ideas were combined when teams listed similar ideas to the same or different questions.

Session 1

Question 1: What initiatives should be developed to invest in a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment to make MSU and Starkville a "best place to be"?

- formal and extended mentoring
- expand faculty housing for incoming hires
- training about what we have on campus and education of what it means to be inclusive and equitable
- methods for faculty to connect to first generation students specifically
- outreach to areas outside Oktibbeha county to more than students

- more capacity for childcare (bring back Aiken Village)
- upgrade facilities

Question 2: What strategies should be developed to integrate the campus with Starkville and the community at large e.g., access, transportation, beautification, K-12 education, shopping, etc.?

- increase outdoor recreation opportunities such as swimming, biking, hiking
- stronger outreach statewide
- upgrade childcare
- listening sessions and conversations with the community to determine what they need
- utilize MSU Amphitheater (music/movies, etc.)
- public parking on campus for easier access
- establish transportation between Starkville and Meridian

Question 3: What actions are needed to modernize and upgrade campus facilities, infrastructure, and technology?

- establish a dedicated team of instructional designers to assist faculty
- convert paper forms to all electronic
- designate space for flexible workspaces
- purposely get word out to community about MSU
- establish more intentional outdoor classroom spaces

Session 2

Question 1: What initiatives can MSU take to be the college of choice for nontraditional students?

- more offerings in nontraditional terms—additional entry points
- stackable credits
- expand services in clinical and mental health
- provide support services beyond 8 to 5 for nontraditional hours
- provide significant targeted marketing
- offer a modified general education track for nontraditional students

Question 2: Based on what was learned during our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, what initiatives can be used to increase resources to improve student success?

- increase mental health support for faculty
- provide training for student centered instruction to faculty
- educate faculty about resources to pass on to students
- professional for faculty for online course delivery (all modes)

Question 3: How can MSU become more strategic in developing new academic programs that would best meet the needs of students and employers?

- foster experiential learning
- evaluate what we are doing to determine what to give up (capacity)
- provide flexibility in programs for more current curricula
- as a land grant, address the state's mental health needs
- support guest speakers/knowledge from outside academia
- more interdisciplinary structures, processes, supports

Other ideas of note that did not receive top votes are listed here:

- establish a program to reuse older technology instead of disposal
- provide greater opportunities for new MSU employees to integrate with others in MSU communities
- build pedestrian bridges at key places on campus to expand ability to walk easily on campus
- streamline the process for approving new programs
- address internet availability and connectivity issues especially during weather events
- establish an introduction to technology course for entering students
- consider Zoom over WebEx since Zoom is easier and more commonly used

Roundtable participants came together at the conclusion of the separate brainstorming sessions to further discuss each group's suggestions. This discussion yielded the list of prioritized ideas for advancing the Campus Community and Healthy, Sustainable Growth initiatives contained in this report. A reception concluded the Roundtable event.

Roundtable attendees thanked the administration and the Faculty Senate for providing a forum for generating ideas and expressing concerns. Attendees suggested that additional Roundtables be held to generate more ideas and give faculty opportunity for input into making transformational changes at MSU.

Respectfully submitted,

Missy Hopper, Vice President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate