April 21, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to provide an update regarding the search for the next Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan-Flint.

The search process began in mid-February with a face-to-face meeting of the 17 member committee and Wheless Search & Consulting, our search firm. In that initial meeting, we discussed the search process and timeline, confidentiality and integrity of the process, and gathered input from the committee to finalize the search prospectus. This prospectus contains the desired qualities and attributes of the provost which the committee updated from the recent provost search in 2015.

It’s noteworthy to us, and we suspect to you too, that this search committee and the search firm has been fully engaged since day one and remains so to this writing. 100% participation, clear communication, insightful input and a free flow of observations and opinions have guided us to where we are today. More about that in a moment.

As a frame of reference, there were overtures by the search firm to well over 330 potential candidates. Additionally, ads were placed in the Chronicle of Higher Education for its regular distribution as well as its diversity distribution. Wheless Search & Consulting focused on identifying candidates who were either in the region or had regional familiarity, but not at the expense of looking nationally.

As the search firm made the vetted candidates available to the committee, we were very pleased with the slate. It was diverse and accomplished. This endeavor has attracted some very compelling candidates. We believe this is testament to who we are and where we are going.
We have now concluded the first round of narrowing the candidate field. The process to find our next Provost has been collegial and consultative. We will be interacting further in the days ahead with the candidates the committee has selected to move forward in the process. Your input and feedback is always welcome and you can email the committee or the search firm directly umflintprovost@whelesssearch.com.

Stay well and safe.

Deba Dutta, Office of the Chancellor, Co-Chair
Christine Waters, Communication and Visual Arts, Co-Chair

Mark Allison, Computer Science, Engineering and Physics
Gary Ashley, University Outreach and Staff Council
Donna Fry, College of Health Sciences
Susan Gano-Phillips, College of Arts and Sciences
Nick Gaspar, Office of Extended Learning
Mike Hague, Business and Finance
Gregory Laurence, Management and Marketing
Stacy Lee, Office of the Registrar
Queen Odira, Student Government
Shan Parker, Public Health and Health Sciences
James Schirmer, Department of English and Faculty Council
Mary Jo Sekelsky, Alumni Relations
Julie Snyder, Student Affairs
Sapna Thwaite, Department of Education
Hiba Wehbe-Alamah, School of Nursing