

Board of Governors Town Hall
Student Center Ballroom C
Thursday, December 3, 2015
6:00 pm
Presiding: William Alexander, President

- I. Questions:
- a. Wayne State has more general education requirements than any other counterparts, what are you doing to address this complaint?
 - i. There is a committee that is looking at the general education requirements. By Winter 2017, possibly Fall 2017, we hope to implement the new general education course requirements.
 - b. Why is there not a Native American Studies Department? Has this ever been brought up?
 - i. This is the first time I have heard that question, but a very valid one. To those who are advocates for it, I'm not opposed to the idea, but we must be mindful to the financial situation of Wayne State, and how many students would be attracted to it, and how we would create the program.
 - c. In regards to the Towers Cafeteria, how are you addressing the cleanliness of it?
 - i. In previous years we have gotten many complaints, this year, not so much. If there are complaints, inform those in charge in the cafeteria so they can address the problem.
 - ii. The Board has been under the impression that conditions have improved, if there are concerns make sure you take them up with the appropriate people.
 - iii. We are currently locked into a contract, once the contract is up, we will look at other options, and also bring up many of the concerns that we've had and how we will address them.
 - d. Many science classes have more than 250 students, is there any plan to gradually make science classes smaller?
 - i. Typically at most universities there will be certain entry classes that are just large, many of which are science classes, we try to get the smaller classes as the curriculum progresses. I will look into other universities to see if we are out of line compared to other universities. We have large classes, but other universities do too.
 - ii. There are no current plans. As you go up the scale, 2000, 3000, 4000 courses, the class sizes get smaller.
 - e. In regards to Athletic Clubs, very few accommodations are being made to help these clubs start up. What are you doing to make this an easier process in the future, specifically Wrestling Club?
 - i. Specifically talking about the Wrestling Club, space was found in an off-campus area, but it was not adequate. In general, the appropriate space needs to be

found, for a continuous amount of time. Unfortunately space is very limited on our campus so much has to go into finding the appropriate space for every student organization on campus.

- f. What changes would you like to the legislation see make in regards to funding for the university?
 - i. I would like to see the formula for how funding is distributed in order to make sure Wayne State gets the funding it deserves.
 - ii. If we were to decrease our research, we would be at the top comparison of those in that same category, because we are higher up on the research scale, we get less money. The funding also doesn't account for the high amount of professional students (law, medicine) we have and doesn't account for how expensive those programs are.
- g. Will the university be open to changing the mascot?
 - i. This board is very sensitive to student concerns, if enough students feel passionate about this topic, then it is definitely something we will look into.
- h. Many students are concerned with the name of the store in the Student Center because Mad Anthony was a racist and murderer, can you shed light on why this was chosen?
 - i. Where is the point of where students are upset? Is it the "Mad" part, we live in Wayne County, Anthony Wayne Drive, is the point where students are upset is because "Mad Anthony" was chosen, are we celebrating the wrong part of his life?
 - ii. If the complaint is legitimate, then the board would be very open into looking into changing the name.
- i. How is Wayne State addressing Islamophobia in regards to the recent events around the world?
 - i. One of Wayne State's greatest characteristics is how diverse we are. We are very inclusive and supportive of the different cultures and people that attend the university.
 - ii. The board is very sensitive to any phobias that students feel.
 - iii. It's important to discuss these concerns as a group and any opportunity you have to address concerns like these, take advantage of them and make sure your voice is heard.
- j. Why don't scholarships change as tuition changes?
 - i. Is it purely a financial consideration as to why scholarship amounts don't increase as tuition prices increases is so we can continue to give out more scholarships to incoming students. We want to have more endowment dollars in order to increase the scholarship distribution, so we can give it out to as many students as possible.