Considerations for Preparing Community Perspectives

The process for identifying the University of Guelph's eighth President and Vice-Chancellor has begun, and the Selection Committee responsible for the search has held its first meeting. One of the first orders of business for the Committee was to identify a list of constituents within the University community, the broader Guelph and post-secondary communities, and other interested parties. The Committee seeks the perspectives of members of these communities as part of the process of developing the mandate and role profile for the University’s next President and Vice-Chancellor.

The Presidential Selection Committee wishes to consult with a broad range of community members. The list that has been prepared includes representatives of all constituencies within the University, as well as a number of leaders in the Guelph and post-secondary communities. In addition, the Presidential Selection Committee is holding open sessions, so that any member of the University community or the Guelph community may share their perspectives with the Committee.

Contact information for the search consultant is also being provided so that those who wish to may email their perspectives directly to the search consultant. These perspectives will be received and compiled by the search consultant without individual attribution, and will be presented to the Selection Committee for consideration.

If you contribute to this process, the Committee would ask that you provide your particular perspective on the mandate and role of the next President and Vice-Chancellor. When there has been an incumbent in the role for a number of years, it is particularly difficult to separate the role from the incumbent as you think about the mandate for the next President and Vice-Chancellor, but it is essential to do so. The mandate for each University President is different, and must be determined through consideration of the University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the present and in the future. Each university has its own particular culture, and so it is also important for community members to consider the leadership attributes that will be best suited to the unique culture of the University of Guelph.

In thinking about the mandate, priorities, experience and attributes for the next President of the University of Guelph, community members may wish to consider some of the responsibilities of the role of President and Vice-Chancellor, which are outlined here in very broad brushstrokes:

| The President works with the University community and its many constituents to develop and achieve the University’s strategic goals, and is responsible for ensuring that the University is pursuing its vision, aspirations, mission, and mandate. The President also ensures that academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and quality of teaching, research, and administration are preserved and enhanced, and that the University is fiscally sustainable and accountable. |
| Reporting to the Board, the President provides leadership to develop and implement the University’s goals. The President works with the University community to develop strategic and business plans and priorities. S/he ensures that objectives are reviewed, Key Performance Indicators are established, and results are measured. The President provides administrative management, ensuring that the University administration and Board are provided with clear, timely, and accurate reporting. |
| The President is the leading ambassador for the University, balancing internal and external responsibilities. The President maintains a climate of positive and respectful relations among all members of the University and the broader Guelph and post-secondary communities, and is the symbol and active spokesperson for the University in seeking opportunities and raising funds from both public and private sources. Developing partnerships and promoting post-secondary education, the President builds and sustains relationships at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. |
The Presidential Selection Committee has prepared the following to consider in preparing remarks for the Committee (or in preparing a confidential email response). Participants may choose to answer all or some of these questions:

1. *What are the strengths upon which the University of Guelph should continue to build over the next five to ten years?*

2. *What challenges do you believe the University of Guelph will need to address over the next five to ten years?*

3. *What opportunities do you believe the University of Guelph should pursue over the next five to ten years?*

4. *What makes the University of Guelph different from other universities, and/or how should it differentiate itself over the next five to ten years?*

5. *Given the context of the University’s strengths, challenges and opportunities, what should be the short- and long-term priorities for the next President and Vice-Chancellor? (Alternatively, you may wish to just finish the sentence: “I hope that the next President does ...”)*

6. *What leadership attributes and character traits should the University of Guelph be seeking in its next President and Vice-Chancellor?*

The Presidential Selection Committee wishes to thank all for taking the time to offer their perspectives as part of the process of developing the mandate and role profile for the next President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guelph.