

OFFICIAL NOTES FROM THE MARCH 23 & 24, 2023 TOWN HALLS

Thursday, March 23 – Phipps Auditorium

Q&A after the presentation by Jay, Grant & Josh

- Greg Cooper shared information about opportunities in Charleston, “Mapping the Future of Charleston” initiative ongoing now
 - Representatives from EIU present on that group
 - Anyone is able to attend over the next 4 weeks
- TRIO: Maggie brought ambassadors; frustrating to use some of the technology on campus in McAfee and the Union, outdated equipment, and general interest in updating tech across campus
 - In classrooms in Coleman and Klehm, there is currently a replacement cycle; in terms of the bond area we have the plan to replace as well
 - Dr. Flaherty shared information about the fee structure should be able to start the replacement of technology -- tech in MLK ballrooms might be problematic, but EIU is aware and it's a priority moving forward
 - Suggestion that as President Dr. Gatrell needs to invest in infrastructure, moving out of a season of austerity to one of investment into critical infrastructure. Previously there was no significant investment in deferred maintenance, recently there are investments to the tune of 2 million dollars this past fall moving forward
 - Plan to use current feeds to replace technology and a sustainable timetable
- Student Perspectives Nick (Management): Maintenance and infrastructure – disheartening that the Dining Hall menu options are lacking, equally important to focus on infrastructure like sidewalks (rainwater collection/drainage, etc.)
 - Dining wasn't aware of the feedback about the menu options, asked to share with Dr. Flaherty
 - When it rains, it floods by Thomas and Dr. Gatrell asked to share that info via email to begin a tracking process for addressing it
 - Promoted the EIU Vendor fair to promote and share items – shared some frustration around creating event (too many steps).

Friday, March 24 – Doudna Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

Q&A after the presentation by Jay, Grant & Josh

- A Building Service Worker expressed thanks for the work being done on the Strategic Plan. It was asked whether staffing recommendations made as a part of Vitalization can be implemented now or by summer. There's a concern of being in crisis mode and when a change might come. Dr. Gatrell commented that we have more projects on campus now than in the past six years, and there is \$2M in deferred maintenance. Jay asked for the individual to email him and indicated a follow-up discussion with Matt Bierman, VPBA, would be needed since this concern falls outside of his current jurisdiction as Provost and VPAA.
- When will the Strategic Plan be released? Dr. Gatrell said it will be presented to the Board of Trustees in April. An Executive Summary will be drafted over the summer, and we will launch in Fall 2023.
- Will the initiatives be ranked in any way? Dr. Gatrell said they are interdependent and will not be ranked. Josh added that the committee has already consolidated feedback via survey data and streamlined/prioritized where meaningful and possible.
- An individual asked about carbon rumors. Jay is not familiar with the rumors and was not able to speak to the topic in his current position as Provost and VPAA.
- Will there be an opportunity to give more feedback? The committee invites input from all areas and encourages members from across the university to join the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Gatrell said to contact Josh to get involved.