



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JOHN Y. WALZ

P 414.277.7100

May 27, 2020

To: MSOE's Student Government Leaders

From: John Y. Walz, MSOE President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Y. Walz'.

Re: Responses to SGA's 2020 Campus Improvement Proposals

First, on behalf of the MSOE Leadership Team, I want to thank you for the thought that you put into developing these proposals, especially under the unusual times in which we now find ourselves. Your proposals first and foremost indicate a strong commitment to advancing the well-being of students at MSOE, which I feel is the top priority of student government. So great job!

The leadership team spent a considerable amount of time discussing your ideas and our response to each is attached. While budgets and other issues prevent us from enacting all of your proposals, we felt that all of these were certainly worthy of consideration.

Responses to 2020 SGA Campus Improvement Proposals

1. Water, Ice and Snow Buildup on Campus

We have surveyed the areas that were mentioned and plan to take the following actions:

- i. For public sidewalks that have the worst pooling issues we will have them mud jacked to eliminate the possibility of standing water.
- ii. For the sidewalks in the Werwath Mall we will continue the plan that began last fall. Seven trees were removed from this area because they were dying and dropping their leaves continuously. These leaves then would often clog the drainage system causing the water buildup and/or ice. We will be replacing the previous trees with ones that will not drop their leaves constantly and we will monitor the drainage system. We will also consider mud jacking some of the sidewalk areas that have significant pooling so that the water will flow better to the drains.
- iii. For the intersection corners throughout the campus, this is a continuous concern for us. When snowfalls occur during the day the MSOE crew is called to action immediately and work until the job is done. When snowfalls occur during the late evenings, the MSOE crew begins the next day between 4:00 – 5:00 a.m. with the goal of clearing all snow from the campus sidewalks, intersections and parking lots by 7:00 a.m. so that students or employees do not have to be concerned with walking through snow as they get to the various campus buildings. We have consistently met our 7:00 a.m. goal. The Milwaukee snowplows often come through during the day and plow the snow from the streets into the crosswalks and sidewalks. We return to the crosswalks and sidewalks to remove the snow and slush frequently, but we often find ourselves battling with the City snowplows and the snow and slush turn into ice which we then apply salt to remove the ice. This spring the City has been replacing several sidewalks and crosswalk approaches in the downtown area with a lower distance between the road and sidewalk to provide better access for people with mobility challenges. We will monitor this new design to see if it does reduce the amount of ice and slush that builds up in the crosswalks and take the appropriate measures to remove any hazards as necessary.

2. Student Representation on the Board of Regents

As we discussed during our meeting, we feel that having student input on the Board of Regents would certainly be worthwhile. Membership to the Board is managed by the Board's Nominating Committee, and recommendations for adding members are presented to the full board for a vote at the annual meeting in October. We will propose this idea during the next meeting of the Nominating Committee, which typically occurs one or two months before the annual meeting.

3. Diercks Hall 24/7 Access

As discussed during our meeting, there are several issues associated with opening up this building for extended hours. VP of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Dr. Tim Valley, has agreed to organize a task force of students, faculty and staff to explore solutions that can provide a place for students to gather and work together while also keeping the building and its contents secure.

4. Evening and Weekend Hours for Wellness Center

As with the above item, VP Dr. Tim Valley will organize a task force to determine possible options on this issue.

5. Prioritization of Athletic Van for Student and SHIP Use

The Leadership Team spent quite a bit of time discussing this issue. Because of various concerns (e.g., budget, safety, insurance), we have decided not to make any changes at this time. Nonetheless we do not feel that this is an unreasonable request and we are certainly willing to consider again next year.