

NMU Board of Trustees

David Wood and Carol Johnson
SRA-ATF Co-Chairs

Friday, September 21, 2018

Dr. Wood:

Greetings to you all. We are here to talk about the SRA process. We lived and breathed it for so many months we decided we couldn't leave well enough alone. It's wonderful to have this process in our rearview mirror ... it's the best way I can put it. It's a wonderful task. It's a report that Carol and I do stand behind in certain kinds of ways. Carol has written something that I think is important for us to hear and I will defer to her.

Dr. Johnson:

In my 20 years at NMU, there has never been such an ambitious and comprehensive review of both the academic and support programs. I would like to express my appreciation and respect for the NMU Administration and the Board of Trustees for the vision and, frankly, the "guts" to engage this process. The notion of a campus-wide prioritization project was bold. I believe that engaged leadership requires thinking and it requires acting. You have to act "outside the box." Creative thinking inspires ideas. Ideas inspire change. Walt Disney once said, "Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future." And that's what I believe this project will do for the university.

This SRA process, because it's not over yet, will and has already changed our university to a great degree. People across campus are talking with one another, programs are continuing to engage in what I believe is called self-reflection. That look in the mirror in the morning going "are we doing the right things." Opportunities for transformation are actually being explored. The Academic Task Force, which I'm really proud of, was committed from day one to conduct this review in the professional and fair manner. Nobody had a hidden agenda. We also believe that the diversity of our group was incredible. David and I wish to publicly thank our ATFers and we would like to express and tell you about the synergy that this group actually achieved. I am proud of our efforts and the detailed report we created and suggestions for improvement to future SRA processes should be seriously considered. We also ask you to please look at the Observations and Recommendations that we highlighted because we do believe that those were very thoughtful and well-intended. Our task force feels privileged and honored because we learned an enormous amount of valuable information about what's going on throughout the university. We have so many diverse academic programs on our campus ... we hope were able to identify to you or for you the great opportunities that are out there, the huge possibilities for collaboration – we'd like to break down some of those academic silos – and lastly, and maybe the most important thing, is that this is going to be a great contribution to our student's education and future. So, thank you very much, sincerely.