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Bigelow Night with the Prez

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Bigelow remarks--10 minutes

These items were suggested:
• General background (where from, hobbies)
• How you got where you are today (education, experience)
• Your role as president
• What’s the president doing for me?
• What’s your vision (Med/law school, green initiatives)
• Where’s WMU in 5 years? 10 years?
• Res Halls-What they mean to you, would Special Interest Housing be beneficial?
• How can students help with your vision, how to protect university’s good name, student success topics, retention rates, school pride, RAs to have prepared questions.

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Given the short time frame, I suggest focusing on "breaking news"--the med school and what it will mean to the University and our students.

• We have exciting developments this week that will have an impact on what the university looks like five and 10 years from now, how our University and its graduates are perceived in the larger world and what our academic programming looks like.

• Talk about med school developments this week, next steps and community and state reaction.

• Perhaps use Bill Johnston's comments about vision being more about tomorrow than today and the importance of not letting today's difficulties deter the vision.

• Part of my vision of a healthy university--diverse, sustainable and focused on success.
• Sustainability part of all that we do. Students can expect more sustainable facilities like our HHS building; sustainable research like our green manufacturing, alternative energy and more course work that has sustainability integrated into the disciplines.

• Residential life is critical to our student success work. We know that students who live on campus are more connected and do better academically. Special interest housing brings a new dimension and sense of vitality to our residence halls--makes students more connected than ever, to their residence hall, their major, their community and their university.

• Students can help build the University by always being advocates, talking positively and showing their school colors.

• Take questions.