Minutes of April 13, 2016 Online Talk to Dr. Most Town Hall meeting.

Introduction: The inaugural online student town hall meeting “Talk to Dr. Most” was held using BlackBoard Collaborate inside MLIS Village on the evening of April 13, 2016. The new online town hall meetings are intended to replace the department’s face-to-face town hall events that have been held during the Georgia Library Association meeting at GaCOMO. Moving the town hall meetings online allows out-of-state students and those who can’t attend the GaCOMO conference a chance to share their thoughts with the department head. The online town hall offers a chance for students to chase down rumors, ask questions, offer suggestions, or simply share their thoughts about the MLIS degree program.

Seven students participated, some anonymously and some by name. The session was not recorded to protect the confidentiality of the process. Questions about department policy and resources were answered.

* Students asked that instructors promptly update course materials to align them to new editions of the textbooks.
* Students asked for more detailed grading in certain courses and for worksheets in one course to be graded. Students asked for grading rubrics that clearly showed why they lost points on assignments.
* Students voiced a preference for course materials to be provided as html webpages inside their online course software rather than as PDF or Word formatted documents that needed to be downloaded to use.
* Students asked for more one-to-one consultation time with the instructors for MLIS 7700 and if the course could be offered in the summer.
* Students shared compliments and frustrations about their different instructors, recognizing some of their instructors for prompt, full, gracious responses to class questions and asking for others to be timelier in their online responses.
* Students asked about transferring in course credit from a different academic unit in the VSU graduate school to the MLIS program.
* Students asked if the department would ever consider offering academic credit for work-life experiences.
* Students voiced frustration with the university’s textbook database as the source for information about course textbooks.
* Students asked if a smartphone app would ever be available to directly access the course delivery environment.
* One student requested a way to earn academic credit for a summer internship so that students who are able to secure structured internships such as those offered by CNN, the Smithsonian, and the Library of Congress can earn academic credit for their experiences.