1. For those of us who do not receive financial aid, tuition is extremely high. How much will tuition be raised for the following year?

*If you are in one of the programs that is not CSD or DEN, you pay a per-program cost. If you are in CSD or in DEN we let you know at the beginning of your program that tuition could increase up to 4% per year.*

2. Are the Simulators and Learning expenses within the general fee different than those accounted for already in the tuition increase?

*The Simulators and Learning expenses are partially covered in the general fees and partially through tuition.*

3. What updates to the facilities need work and could those be looked at again to lessen the burden of students? Especially during the global pandemic.

*The only changes made to the facilities are to de-densify the laboratories.*

Denis: The beds in the Skills Lab on the first floor of Shouse that were in 113 have been redistributed to other rooms down the hallway. We moved and extended electrical outlets and have done the same with the third-floor health assessment lab. Beds for the third-floor lab are now between rooms 310 and 313. Similarly, we are doing this in 2CW with the rehab beds. This plan was validated by the Massachusetts Public Health Commission. Overall, we’ve reduced the density of labs by around 95%.

4. Will PPE also include free COVID testing?

*PPE is personal protective equipment; it does not include COVID testing. We are not doing regular surveillance testing for students because it is not indicated in a non-residential population. Everyone is going to have a COVID test before they come to campus if they are from a high-risk state, and most students will be doing that in their home state. If you are in a lower-risk state, you don’t have to have it done.*

5. Is the cost of PPE being included in the tuition increase, clinical fee increase, or both?

*The cost of PPE is partially covered by tuition and partially covered by clinical fees. The total amount for PPE is not built into the clinical cost, so we had to separate that cost between clinical fees and tuition increases.*

6. Can you talk more about the clinical fee in the context of COVID? Now that many of our clinical experiences are taking place via simulation software, which is accounted for elsewhere in the budget, why does the clinical fee remain so high?
There are things we cannot do by simulation. We have to have you working with patients in some way. We have a group of people who are doing that work of finding you those clinical placements, and that’s why the cost is high. Once we get you those clinical placements, many places only want a small number of students (i.e. three) with a faculty member, or some places are not even allowing a student to come in unless we send a faculty member. Therefore, we have to be ready for all of those eventualities because the most important thing is for you to get into the clinical area. We are working on all areas in order for that to happen.

7. Is there a way to get free rapid COVID testing in Boston?

Depending on the town you live in (i.e. Salem, Saugus, Lynn, Everett, Somerville) there are free, rapid testing locations. Please also refer to free COVID testing sites.

8. Are there any updates on how to get a refund for the MBTA pass?

If you have questions about MBTA, please email Jack Gormley at jbgormley@mghihp.edu.

9. The DPT program is beginning in-class lab intensives on Monday, so getting the email/information about HealthStream and the app we are going to be using will be much too late. Is it possible to get that email out earlier than Monday, such as Thursday or Friday?

Please refer to the IHP Announcements email from Thursday, 8/21, for a "Return to Campus Guide."

10. What is the group called that is addressing civil unrest?

START, the student services response team. It is a part of CART.

11. Will there be COVID tests available upon our return to campus and/or entering Massachusetts?

Please see questions 4, 12, and 13.

12. Additionally, if we are traveling with a parent to help get us set up, will they be able to get COVID tested as well in Boston so they don’t have to quarantine for 2 weeks?

The best thing to do is for them to be tested before they leave their current location. There are some rapid COVID testing sites in Massachusetts, but most of them require appointments ahead of time. The Massachusetts State Department of Health contains listings of free COVID testing locations as well.

13. Why does Harvard have COVID testing for return to campus, but we do not?

We do not have a residence community. Surveillance testing has shown not to be effective in a non-residence community. The key for us is to do the things that will reduce the chance of the spread of infection.
14. Do we know the specific dates for the winter break?

*We have not announced those dates officially, but we will do so by December 1st or sooner.*

Other questions not raised at the Student Town Hall but raised ahead of time.

15. Will the IHP be going fully online after Thanksgiving? Many other schools in Boston will be going online after Thanksgiving, including MCPHS, Emerson, etc. By not doing so, you are putting the students at risk, especially students whose homes are not a drive away.

*All of the didactic courses will continue to be on-line for the whole fall semester. The ability to be in the clinical setting for on-site clinical experiences will continue as long as our clinical partners allow us to have these opportunities. We will not shut off those opportunities as long as they exist and they are safe. Our IHP Resilient Task Force will be evaluating the safety of all aspects of the in-person experience with the most currently available data and will make decisions based on those data.*

16. Please further extend the due date for vaccinations and required life support courses for new students.

*This date has been extended to September 30, 2020.*

17. Can Q&A webpages be made available sooner for those who aren't able to attend the Town Halls? Additionally, is it possible to alternate between the Mondays @ 12pm and Tuesdays @ 5pm times for Town Halls? I understand the switch to Tuesday was made to allow for more attendance, but it cuts out people who were able to attend previously but cannot anymore.

*Thank you for this suggestion. We will try to get the answers up as soon as possible and will work with SGA to find times for the Student Town Hall that are more convenient for students’ attendance.*

18. The IHP has decreased the 6% tuition increase back down to 4%. However, why has the CSD clinical fee increased from $900 to $1200? Why has the General Fee increased from $760 to $900?

*The fees had not been increased in three years but the cost of providing the services funded by those fees has increased each year and has significantly increased in the face of COVID. Please see the attached slides that show how fees are being used.*

19. Would you be willing to explain the 18% increase in the general fee and the 33% increase in the clinical fee for the 2020-2021 school year? Also, in the future, would you be willing to be more proactive and transparent in letting students know when and why tuition/fees are rising? I know that the pandemic is reshaping the needs of the Institute, but many of us have lost day jobs and are anticipating finding Clinical Fellowships during a recession (saddled with debt). Active transparency going forward would go a long way toward building trust in our community.
The IHP has tried to be transparent and proactive in explaining the costs of health professions education in the face of COVID. We will continue to try to improve in both of these areas, especially in giving students more advanced notice of any changes. Please see slides for a description of how the revenue from the fees is being used.

20. For student badges/access, do students need separate badges for both the hospital and the Institute?

No, you will have only one badge.