

# February 28, 2013 Dean's Council Meeting Minutes

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## **Present:**

Mindy Baumgartner, Paul Blake, Julie Coon for Matthew Adeyanju, Cheryl Cluchey for Don Green, Fritz Erickson, Robin Hoisington, Steve Reifert for Michelle Johnston, Bruce Morgan, Kim Wilber, J.K. Yates

## **Advising Discussion**

Paul Blake informed the group of the creation of new federal laws and impending changes for the advising of consortium students. A group of Ferris employees have been regularly meeting to help map out a beginning process for student advising. Changes will be in effect at the beginning of Fall Semester.

## **Student Debt Discussion**

Paul Blake led a discussion on ways to help reduce student debt where possible. The deans shared ideas and identified future goals that could assist in reducing student debt. Ideas included assisting students in their transition into upper division courses from community colleges, encouraging them to complete their online courses, giving them appropriate advising guidance until graduation, improving communication with transfer students and engaging in applicable discussions with Extended and International Operations in the various regions. Students need to be continually motivated toward success, and therefore orientation programs have been created to include financial aid information.

The deans also shared their college's current projects and action plans underway to assist towards debt reduction:

- reviewing curricula for appropriate timeliness to graduation
- analyzing pre-requisites
- investigating creation of a mentorship program
- assisting and working with returning veteran students
- adding or increasing scholarships where possible
- analyzing admission criteria for change where appropriate
- investigating additional internship opportunities
- building relationships with more alumni

Bill Potter initiated discussion on the benefits of using MyDegree and encouraged deans to take advantage of what it offers. He discussed the need to review courses with higher rates of repeating students and discussed initiatives including a review of developmental courses and a review of summer admission for remedial courses. He emphasized the need to review courses with low grades and higher failing rates, investigating SLA's and noted the importance of using the Faculty Center. He also discussed the review of the "Gateway to Completion" national initiative.

## **Position Justification – F11381**

A justification for the replacement of a tenure-track faculty position in the Television and Digital Media Production was reviewed and after discussion concluded, the vote was unanimous to move forward with posting this position.

**Over**

**Round table**

Kim Wilber discussed the current faculty equity process and reviewed the timeline for submission. She reminded the group that this is an internal equity process. She also noted that a meeting would be scheduled to review an RCM budget model.

Scott Garrison shared an update on plans for the temporary relocation of the Big Rapids Library to FLITE.

Karen Strasser announced the deadline for the Student Research Fellowship.

Rick Kurtz shared information on current plans for digital signage.

Bill Potter shared information on the recent Honors invitational and also announced that Peter Bradley has joined the University as new director of Honors.

Dave Nicol announced that Lucian Leone has joined the University as Associate Dean of the College of Business.

JK Yates shared various projects that the College of Engineering Technology is involved with including the development of a partnership with the Sub-contractors of America.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Hoisington