

October 3, 2006

Dear Faculty,

Now just a little over thirty days into my new job as Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, I want to extend an invitation and share a few brief comments with you.

If you are interested in or concerned about the relevance, effectiveness, and direction of the Center, then I invite you to be a part of the Center's Advisory Group. From time to time, the Center may need guidance from the Advisory Group in response to a new grant opportunity or a campus, national, or international issue that has particular relevance to teaching and student learning. As a member of the Advisory Group, you would only need to respond when the issue or opportunity is of interest to you and you have time to help. Our one expectation is that if you volunteer to be on the Advisory Group that you do so for two years, but you would also be welcome to sign on again for another two years!

This model of a larger Advisory Group that could break into smaller working groups for short periods of times is one that both worked well in my previous experience and the Center staff is excited about developing here at Ferris.

Over the past several years, the Center has been well-served by an Advisory Board. I'd like to especially thank those of you who have served in the past in this capacity, as well as those currently serving: Brenda Brown (CAHS), Kimn Carlton-Smith (CAS), Mike Feutz (TECH), Greg Wellmam (PHAR), Amy Kavanaugh (COEHS), Gloria Lukusa-Barnett (UC), Connie Morcom (COEHS), Cheryl Cluchey (UCEL), Rick VanSant (COE), and John Vermeer (BUS).

I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to work at Ferris State. I'm proud to be a part of the Center - a resource rich with experienced and knowledgeable staff who have an incredible commitment and passion for powerful teaching and deep student learning.

As some of you may know, my family and I came from New Orleans where I taught since 1992 at Xavier University. Although I have mixed feelings about having left Xavier and New Orleans, I have no regrets about coming to Ferris. To those of you whom I've met, thank you for the kind and generous reception, offers to help with my transition to Ferris and Big Rapids, and willingness to be a part of the Faculty Center. I especially appreciate your interest in guiding and participating in the future work of the Center.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this opportunity to join the Advisory Group. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (231) 591-3541 or by e-mail stanist@ferris.edu. And, certainly, if you'd like to be on the Advisory Group, let me know. I look forward to working with and for you in the months to come.

Respectfully yours,

Todd Stanislav
Director