

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Don Flickinger, Rick Griffin, Karen Obermier, David Pilgrim, Mike Ryan, Melissa Sprague, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Review of Discussion Notes - The discussion notes from November 14, 2007 were reviewed. No changes were noted. The January 30, 2008 meeting of the Leadership Council was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Update on Student found in Dorm - Dan Burcham provided an update on the situation regarding a student found deceased in his dorm room. Dave Eisler provided an update regarding contact information, counseling and news media.

Student Affairs update - Dan Burcham reported that fall application numbers look good, with the total numbers ahead by 1,455 as of this morning, with admissions decisions ahead 1,987. Projections are that off campus should do extremely well. The increasing of admission standards is under review. An update to the Board will be provided in the next few weeks. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan regarding a potential middle ground for ratcheting, Dan Burcham reported that within the University College the support systems (SLA courses) favor higher level students, since they register early. This issue needs to be addressed. Tom Weaver noted positive differences in students that have enrolled at Ferris since the ratcheting; Rick Griffin noted positive relations with the community with the students after ratcheting. Dan reminded the council of the upcoming WILL Conference at the Holiday Inn on March 27. This conference is hosted by the Student Government and is free of charge.

Academic Senate update - Rick Griffin reported that the Senate approved several new programs and program changes; they approved the Mission and Vision statements; and they approved the University Diversity Plan. He noted that concerns have been raised regarding hosting the Vagina Monologues on campus and indicated the Board of Trustees will consider approving the online Bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene program at their meeting on March 21.

Diversity Office update - David Pilgrim reported that Ferris' first University Diversity Plan will be brought before the Board on March 21 for their approval. After the plan is approved by the Board, David will be working with Academic Affairs to provide communication to the Deans to

address putting the work teams together in the academic colleges. He is pleased to host the 18th annual Equity in the Classroom conference at Ferris on March 30-April 1. The opening ceremony is in IRC and he encouraged all to attend. The Diversity Office is a major sponsor of some events on campus, including some dynamic speakers. A discussion will be held at 7 pm this evening in IRC 120 regarding the Vagina Monologues. David noted that Luzia Tartari is bringing in Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education. Jeff Chernoff created a program where students/staff in housing attend "X" number of diversity events. The Diversity Office will purchase plaques for them. Robbie Renke, Vice President of Student Government, has created the Student Government for Diversity Committee. David is conducting two-hour training sessions for the Jim Crow museum, and has joined the Blue Ribbon Task Force. He noted that he opposes the ratcheting of admission standards. A fund raising video for the Jim Crow Museum has been placed on youtube.com. Yolanda Barnes has started a student campaign. The traveling exhibits are in demand and are going from college to college. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, David reported that the fund-raising goal for the museum is \$1 million. They still need \$900,000; they have spent \$100,000 with Exhibit Works and have received the designs for the museum. David extended his appreciation to Dave Eisler for his assistance and to Mike Ryan for his donation. Discussion ensued on the ratcheting of admission standards. Among the points raised were the development of a provisional program for those who do not meet the new ratchet; University College has a limited amount of resources available; and the potential to get alumni and emeriti involved.

Ferris Faculty Association update – Mike Ryan indicated he was appearing for Jim Rumpf today. He extended his appreciation for the memorandum about what we are to do post-Virginia Tech. He noted that people are looking for recommendations and support information. They are looking for direction on exactly what they are to do. He suggested there be a practical response on behalf of the President on what he is going to say to the media. In addition he suggested that in our hiring practices and reorganizations we should work on a culture of leadership in administrative positions rather than loyalty to the University. For example, on application forms they should indicate characteristics of leadership skills. Then we should provide ongoing leadership training. Dave Eisler noted that the SPARC goals include building a culture of academic leadership, and he expects an initiative to be presented regarding this.

Academic Affairs update – Don Flickinger reported that Ellen Haneline has been offered and has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences. Dean Kevin Alexander has accepted a position in California and will be leaving in July; the search committee for that position has been formed; a national search will be held. Over 600 students participated in the survey regarding summer courses. He noted that it was premature to present data; it did not provide any clear indications, but the majority of responses indicated they were pleased with current approaches. Registration for Summer/Fall begins on the 24th. We have excellent support from all areas of campus to be prepared for the large number of students expected. Monday morning the IT staff will be ready.

Rick Duffett noted that the College of Business is currently involved in an on-site accreditation. They are feeling very positive about the results.

Birkam Health Center update - Melissa Sprague reported that they are staying busy; the flu is tapering off; and the students have been very nice and understanding.

Clerical Technical update - Allen Sutherby reported that the CT's are preparing for contract negotiations. They have agreed to their first goal of completing the contract before the expiration of the current contract. Allen attended the 3-day Campus Fire Safety Conference in Columbus, Ohio recently. He noted that the University is by far leaps and bounds ahead of other Universities, but we still have issues to address. He extended his concern regarding the extent of faculty involvement. He met with a colleague at The Ohio State University and looked at their blue light phone system (238 phones) and was very impressed. He will be attending a meeting today regarding blue light phones on our campus. Allen indicated we have received a City Watch Notification Box on campus. It is up and running. There will be a second phase rollout from Homeland Security that enhances that box. He has the Excel information constructed already, and they are making the databases now. He noted that if you answer one of your phone calls, it does not continue to other phone numbers. Be careful if you answer someone else's line - do not respond for them or it will not notify their other phones.

Discussion ensued regarding emergency response. Among the points raised were that the siren is just an all hazards warning; cooperation in training and drills is essential; ideas for communication with faculty; and an emergency response presentation is being developed to be provided at orientation.

Allen reported that he has joined an all-hazards incident management team for this region. At a recent meeting the final drill of the day was a category 3 tornado hitting the sports complex at FSU during a hockey game. He is hoping to have a scale model developed of the University for tabletop sessions. A gentleman from Massachusetts presented a simple evacuation procedure. Allen would like to try to build on that and include special needs.

AFSCME update - Tom Weaver reported that the Friends of Ferris event was very successful and extended his appreciation to everyone in the council. Tom is participating in a job training committee. They are addressing turnover and seek to assist people to move to a new level. They have a committee addressing the snow day and are handling things expeditiously, but there is a need to have additional discussion on how to improve it even more. He suggested the review of the term "essential" employee. "Core" may be preferred. He extended his appreciation for expediting the additional funds on the employees' paychecks.

University Advancement and Marketing update - Rick Duffett provided a brief update on the student referenced to earlier in the meeting. U A & M hosted a number of events including those in Florida, California, Colorado and Arizona. A number of new endowments have been established (approx. 40 new). He reminded the Council there are faculty grant opportunities available through the Foundation. He noted that the University is looking to refinance bonds at the next Board meeting. He recommended that more individuals attend the Emergency Management Team meetings to see what is happening.

President's update - Dave Eisler noted some of the challenges with emergency management. Keeping things simple is a challenge; transitioning our communication equipment is a challenge; and some people do not sign up to be included in the process. The Provost Search Committee has identified five finalists for the position, with one alternate. Those interviews will start the second week after Spring Break. He noted we are at an important place in our strategic planning. The goals are beginning to coalesce and initiatives are being formed. He encouraged all to participate.

Adjournment: At 10:06 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier