

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Karen Obermier, Tom Oldfield, David Pilgrim, Miles Postema, Allen Sutherby and Amber Balmer.

Review of Discussion Notes - The discussion notes from March 5, 2008 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Student Government update - Amber Balmer, President of Student Government, reported that the Student Government hopes to have an active campaign with the Foundation. She noted they are doing fundraising for the Jim Crow museum as well. They are hoping for good year, and the Pancakes with the President event was particularly fun.

Student Affairs update - Dan Burcham noted that the enrollment numbers are looking very good. He extended his appreciation for everyone's assistance during Dawg Days. The Chicago initiative is doing well. He extended his appreciation to Amber Balmer for her assistance with the WILL Conference and noted that Amber has established a specialized representative on the Student Government to work with United Way.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel update - Miles Postema extended an invitation to all to attend the Legislative Luncheon in Lansing on May 15. He noted the bus leaves at 8 am; the luncheon/event is from 11 am to 2 pm, returning about 4:30 pm. Friends of Ferris raised over \$30,000 and was well received for a Friday night. Out of 150 of the largest political action committees, Friends of Ferris is 61st, which is bigger than Western and Central Michigan University. He is working behind the scenes in developing a grassroots lobbying group, kicking off with a town hall meeting, to attract people interested in helping Ferris in Lansing or Washington. Miles is revamping their website to help people be more effective in lobbying. He is working to connect alumni with people in Lansing, particularly those in their own district (it is an important point to note how many students are in each district). He noted that his new Director of Equal Opportunity is Pam Meadows and encouraged all to meet her when they can.

Academic Affairs update - Academic Affairs has reconstituted the International Affairs office and will be on 4th floor of FLITE. He noted the Political Engagement Project and the American Democracy Project are now under one roof. The division has a new Operations Analyst, Kim Wilbur. The May Academic Affairs newsletter will be out in print soon, and it is already on

the web. The Higher Learning Commission self study group is moving forward. If you know of anyone that wants to participate, please advise. Dave Eisler noted that this is Tom Oldfield's final Leadership Council meeting and extended his appreciation to Tom for his service on this council.

Clerical Technical Association update - Allen Sutherby reported that the bargaining dates are set, and both sides have a goal of completing the negotiations in a timely fashion. He attended the Homeland Security Conference and noted there are a lot of things going on around campus post-Virginia Tech that he is involved in. He participated in a joint exercise with those doing hazardous materials on campus this weekend. He noted that one comment that came out was that it was a Big Rapids hazardous group, when it is actually a county group, not a Big Rapids group. He noted the need to leverage individuals in this county, and it is an important tool in a county aspect. There is no funding stream to maintain and assist, since they are not recognized as a group. He would appreciate any assistance that can be provided in this area.

Birkam Health Center update - Melissa Sprague reported on seeing such issues as those individuals that would like to have a last minute medical withdrawal. She noted that the Health Center cannot gather statistics as easy as before, but they will have some data by Fall.

Diversity Office Update - David Pilgrim extended his appreciation to Tom Oldfield for his efforts this year. He extended his appreciation as well to Rick Duffett. Since the last meeting, the Board approved the Diversity Plan. He extended his appreciation to everyone for their participation in the Equity Conference. He extended his appreciation to Miles Postema about meeting with individuals regarding legal issues and videotaping. He invited all to attend a luncheon today at 11:30 in IRC 104. He noted that this was the first conference that documented everything that happened in terms of video. Individuals will have a source on their website to see the sessions. In FLITE there is a digital repository so we can capture an entire conference. Arts and Sciences and FLITE have put together their Diversity Work Teams. David has met with the Deans. He hopes in the fall to announce the compact with public schools of Baldwin. He is working with Advancement & Marketing on a couple of big ideas: 1 - to create a campaign to market the University to potential employees, creating a web based program and paper based program that sells the University to potential employees to come here to work; and 2 - market the Core Values, Mission and Vision Statements. He hopes sometime over the summer it is finished and in the fall, we can hand out brochures and refer individuals online, plus have banners, etc. He extended an invitation to Amber to be a member of the Diversity Planning Committee. They will meet over the summer, start workshops to facilitate their training to become facilitators, and in the fall, when we have diversity topics, we can have student moderators. David reported on one issue: He noted a series of complaints about incidences that happen in the community. He requested any advice or direction on what to do, for example, when someone is a victim of a sexist or racist incident that occurs in a business, noting that it is fairly common.

President's update - Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to those who worked on Summer University this year. He met with the Emergency Management Task Force and viewed a DVD entitled "Active Shooter." He noted they are going to make a new one that involves classroom situations, and that should be available by fall. Dave indicated that this year's Summer University will have a 2-part focus: one will be on Strategic Planning, the other about safety on campus. He

encouraged everyone to assist in getting people to attend with the idea of participating. He recognized David for his leadership in the Governing Ideas Task Force. He noted that the goals and initiatives were distributed and will be discussed with the Board at their retreat in August. He extended his appreciation to everyone for their work on the Strategic Plan. He noted that Allen Sutherby's work with CityWatch is extraordinary; it is working; and anyone will be able to get a text message, if they want one, in an emergency. In the fall, we will see more blue light systems. Residence halls will have card readers to get in and they will have blue light phones outside every residence hall. The Emergency Management plans should be updated by August. The University will do drills and have practices. In order to do our best to be sure all faculty members are aware of the emergency management plans, we need to continue sharing the information. We will have instant messaging software in every media enabled classroom on campus. Dave reported that there are numerous searches happening and provided the status of the searches. He reported that Dan Burcham is the acting Vice President for Academic Affairs; Commencement is this Friday and Saturday. We have 1,700 students graduating with 1,500 likely to walk. He spoke at the Dowagiac commencement and noted some important considerations for commencement. The Legislature was here a week ago Monday. Capital Outlay is still at play. Next year we will be putting together plans for our 125th anniversary, Sept. 1, 2009. The Historical Task Force will take the lead for this event.

Adjournment: At 9:28 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier