

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Christner, Dave Eisler, Rick Griffin, Karen Obermier, David Pilgrim, Miles Postema, Melissa Sprague, and Allen Sutherby.

Discussion notes - the discussion notes from 5/7/08 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Birkam Health Center update - Melissa Sprague reported there will be flu clinics held next Tuesday and Wednesday, with no shortage of vaccines. The health center is seeing many sick students right now, and they have a shortage of nurses.

Academic Senate update - Rick Griffin reported that the Senate is doing fine. The Political Engagement Project is making great strides, with 50 faculty members teaching classes now, in every college except the Michigan College of Optometry. FSU had very good representation at the Lilly Conference in Traverse City.

Academic Affairs/Student Affairs update - Dan Burcham noted that he was very proud of FSU's participation at the Lilly Conference activities. Regarding strategic planning he noted that the deans are working on connecting their plans; the faculty-administrative guidelines may be published soon. The deans are looking at working through the document with the colleges. Dave Eisler provided the names of the faculty/administrative team. He said the document will go to the FFA on October 8. The current agreement with the FFA expires June 30, 2010. Dan Burcham extended his appreciation to those participating in Dawg Days and noted that visitation days are heavy. He is hoping to triple the numbers this year with the Chicago initiative (we have about 43 students now). FBI agents will be on campus the 6th through the 8th of this month to help train a threat assessment team. They launched the United Way campaign this morning.

Clerical Technical update - Allen Sutherby reported that the Clerical Technical agreement was settled over the summer. They are proofreading it now. He will be traveling to the Homeland Security Summit in Traverse City. Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Allen for his personal leadership on the agreement.

Governmental Relations/General Counsel update - Miles Postema reported that the ice cream social went great, even with it being held indoors. Over 900 people stopped by for ice cream. He

hopes to have a bigger and better event next year with the University's 125th anniversary. He extended his appreciation to the staff in his office. The Friends of Ferris is getting underway for their February event; the first Town Gown meeting will be in the Wheeler Pavilion. The Ferris Advocacy Network has been established in order to get external constituents more involved. They are set up to meet in Lansing on October 27 and in Grand Rapids on November 3. The University sponsored and took part in the public policy conference on Mackinac Island. The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce sponsored a similar event in Michigan; President Eisler was featured on a panel discussion re: higher education. Dave Eisler noted that Miles' relationship with the Grand Rapids Chamber was very important to the success of that event, and the Afterglow reception at Kendall went exceptionally well. If you noticed the decorated bulldogs around town, they ended up with 35 dogs in all. The one in front of the library was stolen, but it was recovered in less than 24 hours. They are spread throughout the county. This was a very successful project through Leadership Mecosta. They are putting together a list of locations and a map to indicate where the bulldogs are. Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to David Pilgrim for his work on the brochures.

Diversity Office update - David Pilgrim extended his appreciation to Scott Herron for bringing in students from Baldwin; we have over 700 TIP students at Ferris and 4 finalists for the TIP coordinator position. Please let Bill Potter know if you are interested in meeting with the candidates. Oct. 28 at the College of Business, they are sort of adopting civility as an initiative for the college. He announced the creation of a joint collaborative grant: the Diversity Mini Grants, with 1/3 from Academic Affairs, 1/3 from the President's Office, and 1/3 from the Diversity Office. David asked for volunteers to serve on the committee to approve grants. He noted it has to be a collaborative effort, with at least 3 people on the committee. Groups have been putting together their diversity teams and drafts. Governmental Relations and General Counsel have put together their draft. Also the Michigan College of Optometry has put together a team; Arts & Sciences has put together a team; the College of Technology has a team and is working on a draft. Regarding engaging students, Robbie Rankey decided he would be interested in chairing the first student government group on diversity. David Pilgrim noted that there should not be any speakers coming on campus without having follow-up sessions to discuss the presentation. He has scheduled a 4-part workshop to train students to be facilitators of these sessions. Robbie will present this idea to Student Government to get volunteers; if we identify students that could do that, we are to let David know. David is heading the group to find a new home for the office of Multicultural Affairs. Have identified 4 possible locations; plan now is to announce to the university 2 open sessions to see what the committee is doing. The committee also looked at this building and IRC. They are in need of increased visibility and centrality.

Administration and Finance update - Rick Christner reported that they have had a good summer with many activities going on in the Physical Plant. Starbucks is going very well. The new Optometry building is on the horizon. They need to determine the solution to the ASC HVAC systems. They are down to two options - replacement of the current systems with similar systems, or replacement using geothermal solutions. They have a team working on the Rock Renovation, which is due to kick off in March. Football is going well. In response to an inquiry regarding how the issues that are happening on Wall Street affect us here in Big Rapids, Rick reported that we will phase in the liquidity of the money over a period of time. We move things around, and our

liquidity is fine. He also noted the transferring of AJ Edwards to Wachovia, then Wachovia to Citibank, with Steeple Nicholas picking up Wachovia's investment arm.

President's update - Dave Eisler extended his appreciation for the assistance of Senator Michelle McManus and the Michigan Optometric Association in helping us get the Optometry building approved through Capital Outlay. He reported that enrollment is good; tuition receipts are up; and SPARC meets today in the Founder's Room. In the strategic plan, it was suggested that the 6th initiative under Goal 1 become 2 initiatives. The next item will be to look at the campus master plan. Discussion on the master plan will be just as open as the discussions held on the strategic plan. He encouraged everyone to be a part of this process. The goal is to have the master plan done for the Board to review at its March 2009 meeting. The Ferris Foundation Gala is scheduled for the 1st Friday in November with Mitch Album as the guest speaker. Plans are underway for the next Festival for the Arts. Bruce Dilg will continue leading this event. We will have an individual that does blacksmith art participating this year; our plans are to include the Grand Rapids Ballet and to have the Grand Rapids Symphony return. If anyone has not attended a home football game in the President's box, please let Dave know and he will set a date for you to attend in the President's box.

Adjournment: At 9:34 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier