

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

In Attendance

Tom Adams, Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Rick Griffin, Karen Obermier, Tom Oldfield, David Pilgrim, Miles Postema, Jim Rumpf, Melissa Sprague, Allen Sutherby, Joe Viviano, and Tom Weaver.

University Advancement and Marketing update – per Rick Duffett. Rick reported on the success of the Foundation for Excellence Gala last Friday evening. He extended his appreciation to all for their support. There were 545 attendees; the event raised approximately \$163,000, netting around \$85,000. The University received a \$100,000 gift from 5/3 Bank in interest-free loans; the University is expected to receive half of an estate, an approximate value of \$500,000. Currently every college has a major gift officer assigned to it. In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver regarding the expectation of them staying full-time, Rick Duffett reported that the gift officers will need to stay for the core of the capital campaign, and Amber MacKenzie is providing the training. Rick extended his appreciation to Kaci Baars and Tom Oldfield for their efforts in this area. Tom Weaver extended his appreciation to Rick Duffett for his efforts in fundraising.

Administration and Finance update – per Rick Duffett. Rick indicated that the year-end audit has been completed; a number of items have been approved by the Board related to facilities and improvements; the College of Pharmacy auditorium will be renovated; there will be improvements to our dining services operations regarding the Rock Café; classrooms will continue to improve; and the RFP for the Grand Rapids Art Museum was approved.

Student Affairs update – per Dan Burcham. Dan reported that Dawg Days are going well; he encouraged those that will be in attendance on Saturday to say hello to people walking around and provided a schedule for the day. (Dan will provide a list of upcoming Dawg Days to Karen.) Enrollment looks good – as of now, we are up 200 for Fall. Student Affairs will be coming out with a full slate of scholarships. They are going to Chicago to offer scholarships with in-state tuition. Dave Eisler provided additional detail on scholarships and analysis, and outlook efforts to encourage students to attend Ferris, to increase out of state admissions. This will include neighboring states. We will offer half of the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. Dan Burcham noted that he requested that the Board not go to the next level of ratcheting admissions standards. Our graduation rate has gone up, but not necessarily based on ACT intervals. Dave Eisler noted that he will invite campus conversation regarding admissions

standards by the time we go to the next step. Dan Burcham indicated that the counseling center is very busy during this stressful time, and this week the formal United Way campaign ends.

Academic Affairs update – per Tom Oldfield. Tom reported that Academic Affairs is working on creating a better transfer process; they are working with Dan Burcham to resurrect the International Affairs office; and Luzia is working on recruiting additional international students. He is chairing a task group on unit action planning (a subgroup of SPARC – may not be called that). They are charged with improving the process, and he encouraged input from all. The Board has approved an internal search for the Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences. The College of Technology is hosting an Energy Conference April 11-12. Dick DeVos is scheduled to be a speaker. Tom encouraged all to attend. The Pharmacy auditorium (101) will be renovated. The Higher Learning Commission steering committee is being created – he encouraged participation. Enid has been brought over to Academic Affairs to handle grants of *any* kind. She will help in preparing them. The University has joined MUCI – Michigan Universities for Commercialization Initiative - related to technology transfer, basic research, and partnering with industry. Eleven universities are participating; wanted Ferris now because we can do the technology transfer. This group is a collaboration designed to assist in the development of education/training for life sciences, advanced automotive & manufacturing, alternative energy, and homeland security.

Tom Weaver expressed his concern regarding adequate support systems for international students attending Ferris. Tom Oldfield noted that part of the process is to bring all units together and bring them all in one location to provide those support services. Dave Eisler noted that we have been accepted as part of the Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Academy, and we are looking at developing programs in Vietnam, initially a Masters in Education.

AFSCME update – per Tom Weaver. Tom extended his appreciation to Dave Eisler for signing the contract for AFSCME. He noted that keeping things simple worked. He is working on taking groups for training on how to provide services to do equipment repair. Regarding the inclement weather issue, he recommends we sit down and compromise. There is an issue with Federal Express that must be addressed. He extended his appreciation to Miles and Rick for their recent assistance and intervention, and commented that things are taken care of proactively and confidentially.

General Counsel update – per Miles Postema. Miles reported that the MCDC hired Bill Mrdeza as their Executive Director. Miles would like him to meet with the Deans Council and others. They have two good candidates for Affirm Action/Director of Equal Opportunity, Pamela Meadows and Michael Woods. There will be an open session, and he will send information out to the AFSCME and other groups. Regarding the Friends of Ferris event in February – encouraged all to look for live auction items and silent auction items. You can send leads to Miles. Attendance is important. The Legislative Luncheon is scheduled for March 26, but the date may change. Yolanda Barnes has taken a position as a major gift officer. They have posted her position. Tom Weaver noted that he looks forward to meeting with Miles on an issue in the custodial area.

Ferris Faculty Association update – per Jim Rumpf. Jim reported that they have two demands to bargain; one regarding the study abroad policy, the other is the inclement weather policy. He noted that both policies were a surprise and requested that in the future, if something is in the works, please bring it to the FFA for discussion. He wanted all to be aware of the Leadership Mecosta service project, starting early next year. They will purchase large fiberglass statues, place them about the community, then auction them off. The idea for the service project for Leadership Mecosta is to go with bulldogs; they want to tie it in with University as much as possible; and they want to tie the auction in with other University events (Homecoming, etc.). Jim noted that they are working on getting a reduced tuition rate implemented for emeriti wanting to audit courses; Dan Burcham noted that for the service project/statues, maybe a plastics or welding company would want to get involved. They could be sponsors.

Diversity Office update – per David Pilgrim. David reported on the student diversity survey. They ended up with 2,804 student responses, which is about 21.5% of students. A survey committee has been formed to come up with strategies on how to present the information to campus. A map has been developed on how we should proceed on diversity from a student standpoint. As Chairperson of the Governing Ideas Task Force of SPARC, he has presented the Core Values to SPARC. In the SPARC committee, the Core Values were approved, contingent on one word being changed: career-oriented. Right now they are working on the Mission Statement. A draft Mission Statement will be presented by Nov. 31. They estimate that they will come up with a draft Vision Statement by Dec. 7. Today at noon David will be at the Jim Crowe museum with the UAW. He just returned from Harlem, trying to make contacts. The New York public school system is figuring out a way to use the museum as a learning method for diversity. The Schaumburg Center has a permanent loan for the traveling exhibition. Yesterday a copy of the draft University Diversity Plan was sent to campus; it was shared with the Board; now it is to go to as many individuals and organizations as possible to discuss what it is we need/can do and how to do it. He requested input and noted he received numerous emails last night about the plan. David extended his appreciation to the Student Government, Dan Burcham and others for helping with student survey.

Academic Senate update – per Rick Griffin. Rick reported that last night they had the annual academic program review. They accepted all recommendations. He extended his appreciation of Doug Haneline's efforts. He noted that this is the first time they have had recommendations in ALL categories. Fifteen programs were reviewed; they made general recommendations; they are looking at creating consistency across campus regarding program coordinators. This semester the Senate approved changes in the professional graduate council committee. Reports from the Commission for the Future meeting suggested more cross campus degrees or cross college degrees. David Pilgrim inquired as to how we maintain the integrity of degrees and the process while at the same time being responsive to the market. The Deans Council is working on the expedition of implementing the programs. With the Integrated Studies degrees (degrees with concentrations), we can pull concentrations if the market changes.

Birkam Health Center update – per Melissa Sprague. Melissa reported they are very busy; they had a successful flu clinic this year; they tried something new with the Pharmacy students, after hours; more advertising would have been helpful. She attended the MACHA (Mid American College Health Association) conference – it was a nice campus, they had a nice time, but not great offerings. It will be held at Western next year.

POLC I update – per Tom Adams. Tom noted that their contract has expired; they are going to mediation next Tuesday. The county locked up a person of interest regarding an armed robbery at Huntington, but it was not a Ferris student – it was a local individual.

Student Government update – per Joe Viviano. Joe reported that they are very busy; they have high enrollment right now (40); they launched the legal counseling program this year, serving over 50 students. Issues were found during background checks. He extended his appreciation to Miles for his assistance in putting that together. The students are very heated about the contingency fee. On Dec. 5 there will be a legislative forum with minority and majority senate leaders coming to Ferris. The theme is focusing on higher education funding. This will take place in IRC. They expect 110-150 people to attend. The Senators and Representatives can meet and greet afterwards. For community service they are holding the campus wide food drive with Registered Student Organizations. They will be opening this up to the local community. In response to a request that Joe make sure there is ample amount of time for questions from the audience, Joe indicated he volunteered to moderate it, and half the session is pre-set questions, with the second half questions open to the general audience.

Clerical Technical Association update – per Allen Sutherby. Allen reported they had only one grievance, and it was resolved. He requested to be informed of any changes in policies that would affect the CTA. They have a Board meeting today and are gearing up for negotiations for their contract.

Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to all and invited everyone to his house on Dec. 12 for a holiday gathering.

Adjournment: At 10:04 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier