

**President's Council / Deans' Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 28, 2009**  
**8:00 a.m., CSS 302**

**Attendance:**

Burcham, DePew, Eisler, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Scoby, Willey, Flickinger, Haneline, Johnston, Klein, Mathison, McKean for Oldfield, Monger, Nicol, Peterson-Klein, Potter

**Discussion:**

- Budget Reduction – Next Steps

President Eisler provided the list of SPARC recommendations from the University-wide budget reduction suggestions. After dividing for discussion, each group shared prioritized lists and comments.

**Group #1:**

- Non-advisable items
  - Vehicles – should perform audit and move to \$5M
  - Department heads to chairs – leave
  - Academic administrators - should perform audit and move to \$10M
  - Athletics – leave
  - Telephones - should perform audit to remove some land lines and move to \$5M
  - Freeze salaries - should perform audit and move to \$10M
  - Travel - should perform audit/reduce travel and move to \$5M
- At \$5M level:
  - Computer replacement - should perform audit of need and specs, then stagger replacement or move to 4-year cycle
  - Renovation - should perform audit of need, but decide very soon

**Group #2:**

- Items that are symbolic and “no brainers” are:
  - Create efficiency efforts
  - Centralized supplies
  - Eliminate food at meetings
  - Increase work efficiency
  - Improve program efficiencies
  - Evaluate and state the number of computer labs – investigate options including lab (laptop university)
  - Evaluate deployment of cell phones and blackberries
- Items that are immediate savings and “no brainers” are:
  - Facilities – reduce or delay renovations
  - Equipment – delay purchase and replace structure
  - Energy conservation – campus campaign to reduce usage
  - Reduce consultants
  - Reduce events
  - Eliminate food trays
  - Skip computer replacement for one year
  - Use electronic systems to replae paper processes
  - Reduce travel – may need training for electronic communication

- At \$7.5M level: Expand/deepen \$5M options
- At \$10M level: Reduce sabbaticals
- Items that are immediate savings and “done with care” are:
  - Consolidate course sections, look at small class size
  - Freeze vacancies strategically
  - Strategically reduce release time (and offer stipend)
- Items that are potential savings and “done with care” are:
  - Reduce # of academic departments
  - Offer strategic buyouts and retirement incentives
  - Consolidate programs
  - Look at administrative positions
  - At \$7.5M level: Look at release time – consider stipends instead
- Items that should be moved to “not advisable”:
  - Merge colleges
  - 4-day operations

**Group #3:**

- Non-advisable:
  - Review telephone usage and number of phones – add to \$5M
  - Review number and use of vehicles – add to \$5M
- At \$7.5M level:
  - Look at release time - should move to \$5M level
  - Reduce overtime – should move to \$10M level
- At \$10M level:
  - LEAVE
- At \$5M level:
  - Need clear language for “reduce events”
- Add:
  - Move to laptop university?

President Eisler reminded the group of the \$2.5 million (2%) reduction already taken during fall 2008 (with 1% coming from central funding and 1% from divisions) and the next \$2.5 million (2%) reduction that we are currently determining. This discussion on reduction priorities is a menu of choices or tools to use to reach the goal by June 1, 2009 and beyond. Budget open forums will be held Tuesday and Friday this week to inform of the current year general fund budget appropriations and updates on the state of the economics in Michigan and at Ferris. In addition a University-wide notice will be distributed on Monday, May 4, to share further updates on the budget situation. There was discussion on strong, symbolic actions that could be taken for reductions; the clarity needed on the budget numbers and perceptions; and when to begin some of the initial reductions strategies.

It was determined that a group is needed to begin finding efficiencies – not as part of the budget reduction, but long-term efficiencies. This will be initiated in the fall when faculty members return. Another group will begin immediately to work on energy efficiency and sustainability efforts. With both projects, an education piece will be critical.

President Eisler ended the session with updates regarding Lansing issues, the higher education appropriation hearings, and tuition possibilities.

**Meeting adjourned 10:00am**

Submitted by: Elaine R. Kamptner