

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 13, 2017

Executive Budget Proposal

Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled his fiscal year 2017-18 budget proposal last Wednesday, which recommends a \$36.5 million (2.5%) increase for Michigan's public universities. Half of this new funding would be distributed across the board and the other half through the performance-based funding formula. Because of our success with state performance metrics, under this proposal Ferris would receive a 3.2% increase or \$1.67 million. The proposed increases range from 1.9% to 3.4%, and our increase would be the third highest, following Grand Valley (3.4%) and Oakland University (3.30%).

For the first time in many years, an increase is proposed for State financial aid to students. The proposal would increase the maximum award for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, which is available to students at Michigan approved higher education institutions. For public university students who qualify the maximum award would increase from \$636 to \$1,000. This is very good news for our students who still suffer from the 64% reduction in state financial aid in 2009.

While this budget news is positive, there is a recommendation of significant concern regarding the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP). Currently TIP covers the tuition cost for a student to earn an associate degree at Ferris State University. The Executive Budget proposes reducing support for students to twice the rate of average in-district community college tuition beginning with the 2018-19 budget. Considering the number of TIP students we currently enroll, this would be a significant reduction in support. Ferris State University was founded on opportunity, and we are successful in helping educate these students. Over the next few months we will work very hard in Lansing to change this recommendation.

It is worth remembering the Executive Budget proposal is just the first step in the state budget process, and over the past four years the final budget adopted has been reduced from the Executive Budget proposal. The House and the Senate will separately review the budget proposal and make recommendations, and it will then go to conference committee for a final recommendation to Gov. Snyder in late May or early June. As the budget process continues to move forward I will provide updated information as it is available.

Board of Trustees Meeting Update

Last Friday the Board of Trustees approved 15 sabbatical leave requests. Please join me in congratulating the following faculty and staff for receiving this support:

Kim Colvert – Physical Sciences
Lisa Eshbach – Management
Rachel Foulk – Humanities
Nathan Garrelts – English, Literature and World Languages
Bradley Isler – Biological Sciences
Susan Jones – Marketing
William Killian – Physical Sciences
Paul Long – Built Environment
Robert Quist – Humanities
Connie Randle-Morcom – Digital Media
Christopher Richmond – Student Affairs
Mandy Seiferlein – Pharmacy

Bakhodirzhon Siddikov – Mathematics
Grant Snider – Humanities
Joseph Tripp – Mathematics

During the Board's Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting, Dr. Elaine McCullough, professor of English, Literature and World Languages, presented information from her sabbatical leave which continued her longitudinal study on improving student success in online coursework. I am very grateful she would share her work and demonstrate so convincingly the value of sabbatical leaves for our faculty. We are grateful for the effective ways our faculty use sabbatical support and for the strong backing of our sabbatical program from our Board of Trustees.

The Board also approved the conferring of Honorary Doctorates of Business and Industry to Mary Garvelink and Mickey Shapiro, and an Honorary Doctorate of Health Services to Jeff Rowe. All three honorees credit their Ferris education with providing the foundation for their success, are actively engaged with the University and have made significant commitments of financial support.

Mrs. Garvelink graduated from the College of Education and Human Services in 1972. In 1975, she and her husband, John (CET '71), started a full-service mechanical contracting company, Commercial Design Engineering. In 1994, she became CDE's principal owner and president. She has served on the National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Board of Directors from 2001-2004 and in 2004 was elected its national president, marking the first time a woman was elected president of a major national trade organization in the mechanical industry. In 2004, she received *Contracting Business* magazine's Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Woman of the Year Award, and in 2005 she was the first woman to receive the Industry Person of the Year Award from the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. She recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Ferris State University. Leadership gifts from Mary and her husband, John, are designated for the Ferris HVACR program.

Mr. Shapiro was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany. He was two years old when his parents, both Holocaust survivors, came to Detroit after World War II with just \$8 and unable to speak English. They rebuilt their lives in the U.S., and his family story inspires his philanthropy. He attended Ferris State University in 1966 before transferring to Michigan State University, graduating in 1969. He is now the CEO of M. Shapiro Real Estate Group and a principal of Lautrec Limited, a real estate management company in Farmington Hills. Mr. Shapiro is one of Michigan's top financiers and developers with ownership positions in numerous real estate entities across the United States. In 2002, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He established the Mickey Shapiro Opportunity Scholarship Endowment at Ferris State University to acknowledge and support provisionally-admitted students who successfully complete their initial studies.

Mr. Rowe graduated in 1979 from the College of Pharmacy. In 1993, after owning two successful independent pharmacies, he joined Diplomat Pharmacy as a staff pharmacist charged with building the organization's compounding and complementary services. From 1997 to 2006, he served Diplomat as its pharmacy manager, and then as executive vice president and a member of its board. During his tenure with Diplomat, the company grew from a single location with revenue of less than \$5 million to 16 locations and \$3 billion in sales, traded publicly on the New York Stock Exchange. A member of the Michigan Pharmacists Association since 1979, he has frequently served as a delegate to the MPA House of Delegates and as treasurer on their Executive Board from 2002 to 2007. He is also a member of the American Pharmacists Association and National Community Pharmacists Association. He has been honored as GCPA's Pharmacist of the Year (1992-93), inducted into MPA's Hall of Honor (2007) and awarded Pharmacist of the Year by MPA in 2016. He has served his alma mater as a

member of the College of Pharmacy Advisory Board from 2007 to 2015, and as chairperson of the Pharmacy Forward initiative's steering Committee since 2012. He recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Ferris State University. Leadership gifts from Jeff and his wife, Annette (COHP '79), provide funding for the renovation of the Hagerman Pharmacy Building and annual scholarships for students accepted into the Pharm.D./Master of Business Administration program.

Strategic Planning and Resource Council

The Strategic Planning and Resource Council will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 3 to 5 p.m. in UC 202B. David Pilgrim and Kristen Salomonson will discuss results from the recent employee survey. Jerry Scoby will provide updates on the campus master plan and student housing plans for the Big Rapids campus. SPARC meetings are open to all and you need not be a member of SPARC to attend. If you have ideas or thoughts on these topics and would like to engage in these discussions, please consider attending.

Festival of the Arts

We are now moving into the third week of the Festival of the Arts. Among the many events scheduled, I would especially highlight this Sunday's performance by the Grand Rapids Symphony. Here are some selected events from the many experiences scheduled this week:

- *Sketch-Up – The Easy Way to Draw in 3D/An Architectural Presentation by Paul Long* – Monday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m. at the Big Rapids Community Library
- *Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance"* – Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 14 and 15, 7 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church
- *West Waterfalls of Michigan with Phil Stagg* – Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. at the IRC Building Room 120.
- *The Backbeats* – Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. at Cranker's Restaurant and Brewery
- *Artist Demonstrations* – Saturday, Feb. 18, 12-3 p.m. at Artworks
- *Grand Rapids Symphony with David Hall, marimba* – Sunday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. at Big Rapids High School Auditorium

For more information or to view the complete schedule of events visit www.brfota.org.

David L. Eisler, president