

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 21, 2013

Enrollment

The official enrollment figures for the spring semester are in, and we again have set records. This is the largest spring semester in Ferris State University history. Our total student headcount is 13,813 university-wide, up 108 over spring 2012, while our total Student Credit Hours stand at 157,083, up 1,217 over last spring. There is continued growth in online enrollment, with 90 more students (up 11%) and 766 more SCH (up 5.7%).

Our student body continues to become more diverse, with students who identify as Asian (up 12%), African-American (up 7%), Hispanic (up 14.7%) and of two or more races (up 29.5%). Our international student population also rose significantly, up 92 to 362 students (up 35.4%).

It is very gratifying to see strength in our retention figures, with total continuing students up 111 over last spring. Big Rapids retention was even stronger, with an additional 133 students returning. This reflects the work the university community has done to make Ferris a welcoming and stimulating environment.

Michigan colleges and universities face a shrinking population of high-school graduates. Our success in attracting and retaining students to Ferris is a testament to the relevance of the degrees we offer, and the work we do together to create opportunities for our students. More information on our spring enrollment figures is available at http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/newsletters/memos/docs/S2013Enrollment_Extract.pdf.

Lotus Notes Replacement

Over the past two years our university has developed a strategic plan for Information Technology, engaging the University community at multiple times in this process. One of the high priorities identified in this plan is the selection of a replacement to the university's Lotus Notes email software. This is a very important decision and will impact every member of the University community, including faculty, staff and students. Each of us is dependent upon this tool for communicating, collaborating, educating and scheduling. All three potential replacement products – Merit Mail, Google Apps for Education and Microsoft Office 365 – are cloud-based systems. Some of the advantages of these cloud systems are significant increases in mail box size, instant messaging, video conferencing, file storage space and web access to documents, among others.

Ferris' Information Technology Services has created a website with overall project information, including recordings of the demonstrations of each of these systems. I encourage you to take the time to visit this site to learn about and review these systems. Your feedback, questions and comments are very important to this selection process. Please complete the online questionnaire at http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/mytechsupport/Lotus_Notes/index.htm.

I hope you will take a few moments to familiarize yourself with these various systems and provide your input on which system will best meet your needs and the needs of our university.

Supervisor Training

As a University we are committed to meeting the educational and training needs of our people. To assist those of you who supervise employees, a training session will be offered on Jan. 25, 9 a.m. – Noon in the Rankin Center Founders Room, with a repeat session on Jan. 30, 3-6 p.m. in the Rankin Center Centennial Room.

If you are a supervisor I encourage you to join a team from Human Resources, the General Counsel's office and Workers' Compensation for a training session and Frequently Asked Questions panel on Title IX, Workers' Compensation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Family Medical Leave Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Department of Labor work rules and Ferris' Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Panelists will be Brian Fleming of Workers' Compensation, Matt Olovson and Steve Stratton of the Office of the General Counsel, and Michelle Balliet, Tamie Grunow, Mike McKay and Laurie Noell of Human Resources. You do not need to register to attend.

Praise for ArtPrize

Last week *Time Magazine*, in its Style section, included ArtPrize as one of the "Five Festive Events You Won't Want to Miss in 2013." Our University and especially the Kendall College of Art and Design, have been deeply involved in ArtPrize. This past fall Kendall President David Rosen announced that the College had made a long-term commitment to supporting the event, including exclusive sponsorship of the ArtPrize Juried Grand Prize for the next five years. Kendall also committed to being an ArtPrize Exhibition Center and Premier Leadership Sponsor through 2017.

If you were able to attend ArtPrize last fall, you know what an amazing venue the renovated Federal Building is for the display of ArtPrize entries. If you were one of the many volunteers who helped make last year's festival possible, I want to thank you again. This is just the most recent indication that ArtPrize has become a nationally recognized phenomenon. You can read the full *Time Magazine* article at <http://style.time.com/2013/01/17/five-events-you-wont-want-to-miss-in-2013/>.

Athletic Success

After dropping a Thursday evening contest to Northwood University, our women's basketball team came back to defeat Lake State University on Saturday. Under the direction of first-year coach Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate our team is tied for first place in the GLIAC north division. They return home this Thursday for an 8 p.m. game against Wayne State University.

Our men's ice hockey team defeated Michigan State University 2-1 in East Lansing on Friday, and again by a score of 5-2 Saturday before a sold-out crowd at Ewingleben Ice Arena. This weekend sweep moved our team into 4th place in the CCHA, just two points out of first place in the conference. There are important contests at Notre Dame this coming weekend, and at home against Western Michigan University on Feb. 1 and 2. I encourage you to continue your support of our team as they enter this critical portion of their schedule.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president