

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 25, 2010

Budget Forums

Thank you to everyone who attended the two budget forums last week. I appreciate the excellent attendance at both meetings. Clearly, the University community is aware of the troubled condition of the Michigan economy and the implications the state's difficulties present for Ferris.

As mentioned during my presentations, one of the goals for these forums is to continue to make the budget process at the University open and transparent. In that spirit the PowerPoint slide show presented during these events is posted on the Web in two different formats - one is the PowerPoint itself, the second is a version that includes my audio commentary. These are accessible at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/BudgetF09.htm> .

During the remainder of this semester I will keep you updated as developments regarding the state's economy and subsequent budgetary actions unfold. The coordinated efforts on the part of the Ferris community, which have been facilitated by your awareness of the challenges facing us, have helped immensely in minimizing to this point the negative impact of reductions in state support. Thank you again for taking the time to be engaged in these developments which have a direct impact on our students, our people, and our University.

Festival for the Arts

This week begins the third year of the revitalized Festival of the Arts. The Festival officially begins this Thursday, January 28, with an opening ceremony and reception at the Big Rapids City Commission Chambers. Kendall College of Art and Design President Oliver Evans will give this year's keynote address.

The Festival has an extraordinary line up of presentations ranging from the visual arts to literature, architecture to music, and some events that blur the lines between different artistic impulses. The majority of events are free, while others have very modest ticket prices. Additionally, there are various workshops and presentations that allow participants to get actively involved in the creative process.

Bruce Dilg has been a driving force in the resurgence of this tradition that draws upon the resources of both Ferris State University and the City of Big Rapids. Professor Scott Cohen, former Ferris Director of Music Bill Donahue, Big Rapids Director of Neighborhood Services Mark Gifford, and Tuba Bach founder Edward Mallett also serve with Bruce on the Festival Executive Board.

Please make plans to take advantage of this month-long celebration of the arts and encourage your family, friends, and students to do so also. A listing of events is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/festival/> .

Haitian Relief Efforts

As of last Friday afternoon about \$650 had been collected for relief efforts with more donations coming in to help the earthquake survivors in Haiti. The Ferris State University Student Government has taken a leadership role in this by distributing fliers to all registered student organizations, who are organizing to be part of this effort. Beyond University efforts many have given through other organizations. If you have not done so already, please consider helping. The images from Haiti are truly heartbreaking. And although millions of dollars have been raised from all across the country, the devastation has created challenges that will require years to rebuild the country. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation, to all the RSOs and other University groups involved, to Dan Burcham for coordinating and to David Pilgrim who is assisting with this effort.

Closing Thoughts

My thanks to everyone who helped plan or participate in last week's Martin Luther King events. I especially want to recognize the members of the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee -

Michael Wade, Office of Multicultural Student Services, co-chair

Hurdlynn Woods, Residential Life, co-chair

Sandy Alspach, Humanities Department

Andrea Beck-Jones, Office of Multicultural Student Services

Jes Berndt, Residential Life

Sandy Gholston, University Advancement & Marketing

Cindy Horn, University Recreation

Andy Karafa, Social Sciences

Andrew Manardo, Humanities Department and Ferris Communication Association

Joy Paquette, Public Safety

Todd Stanislav, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning

Luzia Tartari, International Student Center

Byron Williams, Student Government

Allisa Witucki, Student Leadership & Activities

Throughout the week Sandy Gholston recorded some of the sights and sounds of these activities.

Ted Halm has collected these at -

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/studentlife/minority/MLK10recap/> .

Our men's ice hockey team is having a remarkable season, ranked in the top ten in the nation for the last month. This past weekend the team split a two-game series against the University of Michigan, in games televised nationwide on the CBS College Sports Channel. Saturday evening's game in front of a sold-out crowd in Ewigleben Ice Arena was both thrilling and memorable. After Michigan tied the game with 1:49 remaining in the third period, our team came back to score the winning goal with just 24.6 seconds left in regulation. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Coach Bob Daniels and the ice hockey squad.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President