

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 26, 2009

Spring Enrollment

Despite the challenging economy, Ferris continues to see enrollment increases both in terms of head count and student credit hours. Our spring 2009 headcount is 12,687, an increase of 280 over spring 2008 – a 2.3 percent system-wide increase. Students have enrolled for 150,384 credit hours, 2,697 more than last year – a 1.8 percent increase. The College of Allied Health Sciences experienced particularly strong growth, with enrollment up in the college 12 percent over last year.

The financial challenge students face contributed, I believe, to the small decline in the number of students – 49 – attending the Big Rapids campus. More students appear to be taking classes where they already live and work to help them finance their education. Enrollment in sites across the state – including the College of Professional and Technological Studies in Grand Rapids – increased by 230 students. Kendall College of Art and Design also continues to grow, with a current enrollment of 1,257 students.

My thanks to everyone who helped to make these positive numbers possible – especially the hard work put in by everyone in our Admissions department.

Festival of the Arts

This Thursday, Jan. 29, the opening reception for the Festival of the Arts will take place starting at 6 p.m. at the Rankin Center Gallery. This is the second year for this revitalized tradition, and there is a large and diverse slate of activities taking place from the opening through March 1.

In the first week alone there will be a concert by the eclectic singer Claudia Schmidt, country musician Billy Craig, as well as the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra; Ferris Theatre's production of the play "Months on End"; a presentation on guitar construction by master instrument maker Bryan Galloup of Galloup Guitars; and a digital photography workshop by Ferris photographer Bill Bitzinger and Ferris graduate Matt Yeoman.

A complete list of events is available at www.ferris.edu/htmls/visitors/festival.

Many people deserve recognition for their hard work in making the Festival of the Arts a reality, including Bruce Dilg, Festival Chairperson and Architectural Technology professor; Scott Cohen, Director of Instrumental Ensembles at Ferris; William Donahue, professor emeritus; Mark Gifford, Director of Neighborhood Services for Big Rapids; and Dr. Ed Mallett of Tuba Bach. Please join me in thanking them, and everyone who has contributed to the success of this remarkable undertaking.

Provost Search

Today we will have the final campus open sessions for the position of Provost. Dr. Bahman Ghorashi, Dean of the Fenn College of Engineering, Cleveland State University, will be in VFS 326 today at 10:30 a.m., and in CSS 201 at 2 p.m.

The search committee is scheduled to meet during the week of Feb. 9 to review the finalists' strengths and make recommendations.

My thanks to all the committee members and to everyone who took the time and, I hope, will still take time, to give input on the candidates. This has been an excellent and rigorous search. I am looking forward to filling this key academic position, which will help us to further the University's mission.

University Master Planning

Next week, architects from Neumann Smith will be on campus for University Master Plan presentations to campus and to the Strategic Planning and Resource Council. There will be opportunities to offer critiques of the work that Neumann Smith has already done, based on the input from open sessions they received last fall. This process keeps us on track to have an updated Master Plan for presentation to the Board of Trustees in March. The open sessions will take place

- Thursday, Feb. 5 in IRC 109 from 3-4 p.m. and 4-5 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 6 in IRC 109 from 10-11 a.m. and in IRC 115 from 1-2 p.m.

Please join us for these important sessions. As we prepare to celebrate our history with the 125th anniversary beginning this fall, we also are looking forward with the master plan. Your expertise as someone who interacts with the physical campus is invaluable in helping shape the future of our University.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President