

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 31, 2011

New Board of Trustees Members

It is a pleasure to welcome former Ferris trustee Gary Granger, and Ferris alumnus Paul Boyer to the University's Board of Trustees. Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointments last week. Boyer and Granger replace outgoing board members R. Thomas Cook and Jim Haveman. Once they are confirmed by the legislature, the new trustees' terms will run through Dec. 31, 2018.

Both Gary Granger and Paul Boyer have a long association and engagement with Ferris, making them wonderful choices for our board. I am grateful to Governor Snyder for these choices and for his willingness to work with the University on these appointments. Board chairman Ron Snead also expressed his appreciation, saying, "It is a pleasure to welcome Gary Granger back to the board and to have Paul Boyer, a Ferris distinguished alumnus, joining us. Both are familiar with Ferris, and I look forward to their input, insight, commitment and the contributions I am confident they will make to the board and the university."

Gary Granger is president, founder and owner of Granger Group, a national design-build and development group. His community outreach includes service on the Van Andel Institute Board of Governors and the Lansing Christian School board, among others. He was first appointed to Ferris State's Board of Trustees by Michigan Gov. John Engler in 2001 and served until 2008. The Granger Group has established partnerships and relationships leading to a portfolio of more than \$700 million in successful developments in West Michigan and throughout the state.

He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado and is a 1992 graduate of the Harvard Business School's Owner/President Program. His son, Jason, is a 2004 graduate of Ferris' College of Business and served as Student Government president.

Paul Boyer earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Ferris in 1968 and a master's degree in business administration from Western Michigan University. He began his career at Meijer Inc. 39 years ago, serving in multiple leadership positions including president and chief executive officer, and currently is vice-chair of the Meijer Board of Directors. He is a recipient of the Ferris 1992 Distinguished Alumni Award and 2005 Honorary Doctorate in Business and Industry. He is a former member of the Ferris Alumni Association Board of Directors and co-chair of Ferris' Commission on the Future. His wife, Cathy, also earned a degree from Ferris.

In addition to his corporate board work with Meijer and Topco Associates, Boyer serves on the boards for Goodwill Industries, J.E.M. Mentoring and The League, a non-profit education organization.

Please join me in welcoming our new trustees, and also expressing our sincere thanks and appreciation to the years of service Tom Cook and Jim Haveman contributed to the University. I am grateful to them for their strong leadership for our Board and University during their tenure as trustees.

Provost Professional Development Review

As a part of the continued support and development available for members of the leadership team at Ferris State University, there is an ongoing process for formal Professional Development Review of Vice Presidents and Deans. Provost Fritz Erickson has requested a review at this time and one is scheduled for this week. As review facilitator I will be interviewing a number of diverse stakeholders both within and outside of Academic Affairs. The purpose of the review is to aid Dr. Erickson's ongoing professional development. It will provide feedback about the perceptions of stakeholders, and offer constructive suggestions for his future improvement and effectiveness.

Many people have been invited to participate in these sessions with me, and a significant number of these were randomly selected. Additionally, there is an opportunity for any member of the University community to provide input to me in writing. If you elect to do so, please address your sealed letter to me marked "personal and confidential." Under the review protocol, it is necessary that you sign your letter. No anonymous information will be considered. Please include your office or home telephone number, so I may contact you if I have a question or wish to follow up with you. All communications received will be considered part of the review, and all will be treated confidentially. No attribution or identification will be made regarding any interviewee or respondent.

Men's Basketball

Congratulations to the men's basketball team for their thrilling victory over Grand Valley Saturday evening at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. Trailing by a basket with nine seconds remaining, a rebound and put-back of a missed shot tied the game as time expired. The men went on to win by seven over the Lakers who were ranked 15th in the nation. With the victory our team is tied for the GLIAC conference northern division lead. As part of the game, billed as the 131 Showdown, the Ferris Foundation and FSU Alumni Association hosted nearly 700 young students, their families and instructors to the game as part of the 9-13 Initiative. In addition to admission, participants received an "I'm A Bulldog" t-shirt along with group photos with the Bulldog.

The 9-13 Initiative is an effort to engage elementary and middle-school children from the Grand Rapids-area city schools, charter academies and youth group programs that engage underserved youth with the potential for future opportunities at Ferris State University. Our basketball teams next travel to Lake Superior for contests on Thursday and are home on Saturday against Saginaw Valley beginning at 1 pm. Congratulations to Coach Bill Sall and his team, who together with Ferris Foundation and Alumni Association created a memorable evening.

Winning Sculpture Name

Congratulations to Christine Vonder Haar for her winning entry in the competition to name the sculpture honoring Ferris' 125th anniversary. Professor Vonder Haar was inspired by the Alfred Lord Tennyson poem "Ulysses" for choosing the winning name, "To Strive, To Seek, To Find." The Festival of the Arts Executive Board received 80 entries in all. My thanks to everyone who took time to submit entries.

The sculpture was designed by Professor Robert Barnum and his art students, and then fabricated by Professor Dave Murray and his welding engineering students. The sculpture, portraying a trio of figures, is located on the south side of Perry Ave. near 215th Ave. It was donated to Ferris as part of the Festival of the Arts, which continues to run throughout the month.

In the midst of the cold and snow of winter in Michigan, this is an opportunity to interact with and be warmed by the arts. I encourage you to take in some events featuring guest artists and local talent. I am hopeful you will find time to attend the Festival of the Arts events. Additional information on the schedule and individual events is available here - <http://www.ferris.edu/festival/> .

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President