

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 21, 2011

This week there are many opportunities to become engaged with the life of our University. A number of events dealing with current issues and possible future directions are taking place in the coming days. Here are just a few of the ways that you can get involved in providing input and becoming knowledgeable about issues that are of great importance to the University.

General Education Town Hall Meetings

One remaining Town Hall meeting this week with the General Education Task Force presents a final opportunity to offer public comments on the University's revised set of general education learning outcomes. The Task Force refers to these as Campus-Wide Learning Outcomes.

The Town Hall meeting will take place today, tomorrow, March 22, 9:30 a.m. in Rankin 125/127. To review the revised outcomes that will be the topic of discussion, please visit <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/senate/GenEdTaskForce/revised slo312011senmtg.pdf>.

If you would like to share your thoughts on these outcomes but are unable to make it to tomorrow's session, you can send your comments to heckf@ferris.edu. My thanks for the hard work put in by members of the General Education Task Force for their hard work on this important issue: Dan Adsmond, Mike Berghoef, Tracy Busch, Terry Doyle, Van Edgerton, Fritz Erickson, Mike Feutz, Don Flickinger, Rick Griffin, Doug Haneline, Fred Heck, Leonard Johnson, Nancy Lashaway-Bokina, Elsie Lovsted, Fran Rosen, Kristen Salomonson, Randall Schroeder, Nate Tymes, Matt Wagenheim and Lisa Wall.

Legislative Testimony

As mentioned in my University Wide Message last week, I will be giving a public open forum covering the testimony I gave the state House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees on Higher Education. This will take place in the Rankin Center's Centennial Room on Tues., March 22, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have been following the news, you know that passage of the governor's proposed budget is very much a work in progress.

If your schedule allows, I hope you will join me for this forum. If you have attended this and similar presentations I have given in the past, you know that we are facing a continued trend of state disinvestment in higher education. How does this trend affect our students? What does a 15 percent cut in state appropriations mean for Ferris? Could the reduction be higher than this? What is the current status of budget proposals in Michigan and in Washington, D.C.? In addition to my presentation tomorrow, I look forward to keeping you informed about how developments may impact Ferris as legislators and the Governor work through the many issues involved.

Share Your Success

Over the next couple of weeks I will again be holding a series of “Share Your Success” sessions with various colleges and divisions. These continue to be very enlightening sessions. So much of great value takes place at Ferris that we sometimes lose sight of the remarkable achievements that take place all around us.

These sessions are an opportunity for us to look back at what we’ve done. We are often so close to our own successes that we don’t recognize them for the good work they represent. I look forward to meeting with a wide range of faculty and staff in the coming days to learn about your accomplishments, and in turn share those with the entire campus community. This week, together with Provost Fritz Erickson I will be meeting with -

Wednesday, March 23 9:45 a.m. - College of Professional and Technological Studies, ATC 180
2 p.m. - CPTS in Big Rapids, ALU 109
Thursday, March 24 9:45 a.m. - University College, STR 223

The schedule for next week’s faculty and staff meetings is -

Monday, March 28 12:15 p.m. - Michigan College of Optometry, MCO 210
3:45 p.m. - Education and Human Services, BIS 603
Tuesday, March 29 2:15 p.m. - Allied Health Sciences, VFS 325
Wednesday, March 30 8:30 a.m. - Executive Division, CSS 302
9:45 a.m. - Provost Office, Faculty Center, Charter Schools, CSS 302
12:15 p.m.- Pharmacy, PHR 101
Thursday, March 31 11 a.m.- Arts and Sciences, Science 102
2:15 p.m. - FLITE, FLT 438
Friday, April 1 9:45 a.m. - Engineering Technology, NEC 203
11 a.m.- Business, BUS 211

Final arrangements for meetings in subsequent weeks are still be finalized, but will include -

Thursday, April 7 Afternoon - University Advancement and Marketing
Thursday, April 14 10 a.m. - Kendall College of Art and Design, KCAD 209
Wednesday, April 20 Afternoon - Administration and Finance
Thursday, April 21 2 p.m. - Government Relations and General Council, McKessy Conf
Thursday, April 28 9 a.m. - Administration and Finance
2:15 p.m. - Student Affairs
10:30 p.m.- Administration and Finance, 2nd and 3rd shift

It is always good to hear about the work you are doing with our students and programs. I very much look forward to visiting with you and encourage you to attend.

Good News

Appropriately, a March edition of Good News from our faculty, staff, students, colleges and departments is now available online at

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/GoodNews.htm>.

Some examples of the exceptional accomplishments include:

- Sandra Burns, Dental Hygiene faculty, has developed a new partnership with Metron of Big Rapids. The College of Allied Health Science is donating a dental chair for on-site dental care to be provided by Dental Hygiene students who will also work with the staff to promote oral hygiene for the residents.
- Dr. Mischelle Stone was recently invited to represent Ferris at the Introduction to Criminal Justice Symposium in Pasadena, where she was a panel organizer and presenter on “Adapting to the New Digital Reality.”
- Digital Animation and Game Design Grads Andrew Smith and Keith Shaffer, along with DAGD Intern Randy Nolta, are working at the University of Southern California in the Virtual Patient simulation laboratory. They are creating video game-like simulations to help Army Veterans cope with the stress of their wartime experiences. The DAGD artists are building virtual characters and environments.
- Quoc Quach, Interior Design major and December Kendall graduate, captured first place in the 2010 ASID Student Design Award Competition. Entrants were challenged to explore the issue of wellness as it pertains to a particular sector of the interior design industry. Quach’s design was created in Assistant Professor Lee Davis’ studio class on healthcare design.
- The *Higher Education Marketing Report* has recognized Marketing and Communications’ Spring 2010 *Ferris Magazine* entry with a gold award in its 26th annual educational advertising awards competition. Their 125th Anniversary Report submission received a merit award. The College of Professional and Technological Studies marketing team’s entry for Off-Campus Statewide Viewbooks garnered a bronze award.

There are many, many more extraordinary accomplishments and successes listed on this Good News. I encourage you to take time and learn more about the work of your colleagues and friends. I look forward to reporting on more success stories after our meetings these next two weeks.

Thank you for the wonderful work you do every day for our students and our University.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President