

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 19, 2007

The impact of Monday's events continues to echo across universities throughout our country. You will see two visible signs of this on our campus. In the quad 33 white posts have been placed to represent those who died on Monday. Inside the Rankin Center is a large poster on which you can write a message to our friends and colleagues in Virginia. We also continue to add additional resources for faculty, staff, and students during this period. These may be accessed from our University home page.

This morning at 11 am we will hold a memorial service on the quad for the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech. You are invited to join us for this ceremony of remembrance, which will include remarks, a moment of silence, and the tolling of our carillon bell for each of the victims. This is an opportunity for our community to come together to express our sorrow, our support, and our hope for the future.

Faculty Recognition

This evening we will recognize many examples of significant faculty achievement. Please join me in congratulating them on this recognition of their achievement by their colleagues and our University.

The following faculty have earned tenure at Ferris State University -

Anthony Baker	Amy Kavanaugh	Bruce Morgan
Chester Bolling	Elies Kouider	John Quilitzsch
Amy Buse	Nancy Lashaway-Bokina	Alison Stone
R. Scott Cohen	Russell Leonard	Karen Strasser
Kim Daugherty	Steven Lyman	Cheryl Thomas
Matthew Dixon	Melinda McMartin	Nathaniel Tymes
Gary Gage	Phillip Martell	Frederick Vansant
Virginia Hines	Denise Mitten	Kathleen Vandemark
		Gregory Vanderkooi

Sixteen faculty have been promoted to Associate Professor -

Omar Baker	Mike Korcal	Griff McTume
Ana Davila-Howard	Michael LaFontaine	Eric Quilitzsch
Gary Gage	Gayle Lopez	James Scott
Scott Herron	Melinda McMartin	Meral Topcu-LaCroix
Amy Kavanaugh	Renee Mika	Greg Vanderkooi
		Joe Wist

Nine faculty have been promoted to Full Professor -

Marietta Bell-Scriber	George DeMaagd	Harold Palmer
Michael Berghoef	Daniel Ding	Gregg Potter
Chester Bolling	Gerald Matthews	Caroline Stern

These faculty have earned merit awards -

Sandra Brigance	Abdollah Ferdowsi	Elsie Lovsted
Maude Bigford	Susan Fogarty	Mary Murnik
Ed Brayton	Ronald Haladyna	George Nagel
Robert Burtch	Douglas Haneline	Neil Patten
Jeff Carney	Fred Heck	David Pilgrim
Beverly DeMarr	Leonard Johnson	Linda Powell
Chuck Drake	Rebecca Kowalkoski	Robert Speirs
Olukemi Fadayomi	Ken Kuk	Khagendra Thapa
		John Vermeer

Four faculty will receive recognition for exemplary on-line courses -

Kimn Carlton-Smith (fully on-line)
Allison Bernknopf and Gregory Wellman (mixed delivery)
Clifton Franklund (web enhanced).

Nine faculty have received on-line instructor certification - Omar Baker, Mike Dekker, Susan Hastings-Bishop, Jennifer Johnson, Susan K. Jones, Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, Jody Ollenquist, Donna Smith, Lisa Wall, and Greg Wellman.

Phillip Middleton has been selected for the International Educator Award.

The Outstanding First Year Advocate is Sharon Bell.

John Thorp has been selected for the Diversity Enhancement Award.

Adnan Dakkuri will receive the Distinguished Service Award.

Yaron Felus has been chosen for the Award for Academic Excellence.

Susan Jones is a finalist for the Distinguished Teacher Award.

Mary Murnik is the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award and joins a very select group of faculty on our campus.

We extend our congratulations to each of these faculty members on this recognition of their excellence and contributions to Ferris State University. In doing so we also

acknowledge the significant investment of time and effort by their colleagues in reviewing and recommending these recipients.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Search

Next year we will search for a Vice President for Academic Affairs. We need to begin this process by establishing the search committee before the end of this academic year. This committee will develop the position description and advertisement now so we will be prepared to begin the search immediately in the fall. This will provide additional time for reference and background checks of prospective candidates.

Each college will be represented by a faculty member on this search committee. Today I sent a message to each academic dean asking them to choose a faculty member for this committee from recommendations of their department chairs or department heads. If you are a faculty member interested in serving on this committee, I would encourage you to speak with your department head or chair. In addition I will ask the president of the faculty union and the chair of the academic senate to serve as members of this search committee. Other areas throughout Academic Affairs and our University will be represented on this committee. Before commencement I will share with you the membership of this very important committee.

In conversations with faculty across campus I have proposed designating our next Vice President for Academic Affairs as a Provost, a distinction that I believe appropriately reflects the centrality of academics to the mission of a learning-centered university. This proposal has been received with significant support and I would appreciate hearing from you on your thoughts regarding this.

State Budget Discussions

Tuesday evening was the most disappointing session of the Michigan House I have experienced. House leadership produced a bill to balance the current year's state budget and did much of this on the back of higher education. Both the Governor's and Senate's budget plans had included a deferment of half the payment we would receive from the state in August. House action moved to defer the entire August payment. For Ferris State University this amount would be in excess of \$4.54 million. The intent would be to fund this in October, although the source for these monies, which would now total \$66.5 million for higher education, has not been identified.

Beyond this delayed payment, the House removed all funding increases received in this year's current higher education budgets. For Ferris this would mean a reduction of \$1.41 million or 2.8%. For some universities the proposed reductions are even worse, including a 5.7% reduction at Grand Valley and a cut of \$9.427 million at the University of

Michigan. It is truly unfortunate current House leadership does not support the position of our Governor, that higher education represents the future for Michigan.

At the same time it is very important to observe that the chances of this budget reduction plan being enacted are very small. In passing their budget reduction package the House linked it to the Governor's plan for replacement of the Single Business Tax, which is unlikely to be accepted.

We now have three different budget plans, from the Governor, the Senate, and the House. Next there should be a conference committee between Senate Republicans and House Democrats with representation from the Governor's office that seeks to resolve the significant differences among these approaches. We will work very, very hard to reverse the negative stance on higher education funding taken by the House. A compromise will be reached, but it now seems a certainty that this will occur with two months or less of the budget year remaining.

Commencement

Commencement is just more than two weeks away. During each graduation ceremony I enjoy highlighting the efforts of one or two students whose success demonstrates extraordinary accomplishment. These stories help emphasize the human dimension of what our educational experience can be. If you know of an extraordinary story, please contact our office at ext. 2500 so that I can visit and talk individually with these students. Thank you in advance for this assistance.

This has been a week like few others in higher education history. Thank you for the support you are providing our students during this challenging time. I appreciate you, your assistance, and your support very much.

Best wishes.

David L. Eisler, President