

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
October 21, 2013

Budget/Slides

This past week I presented two information sessions on our budget and the factors that can affect our financial situation. I want to thank everyone who was able to attend. There are interested faculty and staff who could not participate because of work schedule and other commitments. To share this information we have posted the presentations and materials from last week's sessions on-line. As in the past I have used the Adobe "sticky note" function to provide some comments of explanation.

In these sessions I touched on federal and state higher education finances, provided an analysis of the 2012-13 budget, as well as the revised projections for the 2013-14 budget. Included is an explanation of the state performance funding metrics and the changes implemented regarding these during the last legislative session. Given the impact on our budget resulting from reduced student credit hour production, I gave a second presentation focused on enrollment patterns and trends. These are just a few of the factors which affect our budget; more are identified in the materials.

Your understanding of these factors is very helpful as we work to positively position our university in this changing environment. These factors require us to remain active participants in shaping our future. The slides and supporting materials from these sessions are accessible online - <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/budget-pres/forums/BudgetF13.htm> . I encourage you to take a few minutes to review this information. Budget, enrollment and student credit hours are issues we will be revisiting over the next several months, especially when the Enrollment Task Force releases its initial set of recommendations in early November. If you have questions or comments, I encourage you to email me at eislerd@ferris.edu . Thank you for your continued efforts to attract and retain students.

Foundation Gala

On Friday, Nov. 1, the Ferris Foundation will hold its 15th annual Gala Benefit at Devos Place in Grand Rapids. Our Foundation does remarkable work in supporting the excellence of our university. The gala will celebrate the achievements of some of the many students, faculty and staff members whose studies, research and projects are supported by the foundation. These include recipients of this year's Exceptional Merit Grants:

- Michael Berghoef, Professor of Social Work, in support of a service-learning partnership with the Santa Marta community in El Salvador
- Tara Braun, International Exchange Manager in the Office of International Education, to launch the Festival of Nations
- Bradley Isler, Associate Professor of Biology, supporting a summer biotechnology academy for high school students

- David McClendon, Assistant Professor Mathematics, to purchase software enriching the teaching of calculus
- Arinze Nkemdirim Okere, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, supporting research into the treatment of diabetic retinopathy.

If you have not done so already, please consider attending this year's gala. Emmy Award-winning news correspondent John Quiñones will be our special guest. Mr. Quiñones is co-anchor of the ABC news magazine "Primetime," and established himself as a leading journalist by reporting from Central America during that region's turbulent 1980s.

A video introduction of the Gala is accessible at - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb8Cy-9VHtU> . To purchase tickets and learn more about the black-tie optional event, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/foundation/benefit.htm> . We are fortunate to partner with our major sponsor Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative to make the evening special for everyone supporting the Ferris community.

Alertus Test

Tomorrow, Tuesday, Oct. 22, Information Technology Services will test the university's new Alertus Desktop Alert at 11 a.m. At that time, a pop-up screen will appear on Ferris-owned computers. When it is important to communicate with the university community quickly, the Alertus system will be another way we can deliver time-sensitive information or instructions. During the test, you can remove the pop-up screen by clicking on a green "Acknowledge" button. Otherwise, the alert will disappear when the test period expires. You do not need to take any other action.

This new system is a part of ongoing efforts to have a "layered" approach to communicating with students, faculty and staff during emergencies. In the past few years we have also installed our outdoor speaker system on the Big Rapids campus, launched video message boards, implemented text messaging and made it possible to contact classrooms by phone.

Although it is not necessary for you to take any particular action during this test, it is important to be aware of the different ways you might receive critical information. With that in mind, thank you for taking part in the roll-out of this newest channel of communication.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president