

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 7, 2010

Funding for Pharmacy Project at 25 Michigan

Two years ago Ferris received funding for our new Michigan College of Optometry Building, which will be completed in the next few days. It is unusual for a university to receive capital outlay in two successive bills. However, in the early hours of Friday morning the Michigan House of Representatives passed HB 5858, a \$380 million capital outlay bill that includes \$6.6 million for Ferris State University for new space for third-year Pharmacy students in Grand Rapids.

A combination of factors makes this an important decision for our University. Currently, third-year Pharmacy students are split between studies at facilities in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. For some time there has been the desire to combine these education venues. With over a billion dollars of development on Grand Rapids "Medical Mile" this is the logical place to invest state resources for our Pharmacy students. The concentration of medical and research facilities here creates many opportunities for patient care and interdisciplinary collaboration. Finally, the move of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to Grand Rapids created a changing environment for the Grand Rapids Medical Education and Resource Center, which is where these Grand Rapids Pharmacy students currently study.

With this state support we will be able to purchase the 7th floor of a building at 25 Michigan Avenue. The facility is directly east of Michigan State's medical school, across the street from the Van Andel Institute, and connects with these facilities and new Spectrum Hospital facilities through a series of sky bridges. The consolidation of instructional sites will not impact the program's Kalamazoo clinical site.

We are delighted to receive capital outlay support again. Much credit for this success goes to our State Senator, Michelle McManus, who chaired the joint capital outlay committee. Our State Representative, Darwin Booher, and Rep. Bill Caul from Mt. Pleasant cast the deciding votes in the House to move this forward. Our lobbyist in Lansing, Manny Lentine, shepherded this throughout. This is the first time I have seen funding for capital outlay approved during the lame duck session and we were very fortunate to be included in this bill. It is especially significant that our project was funded not only for planning, but also for the purchase and renovation costs. As a result of this special consideration we will not need to return to the legislature for additional approval to move forward on this project.

The capital outlay bill still needs approval by Governor Granholm, but I am hopeful she will sign this shortly. This is a very important project for our College of Pharmacy, increasing the University's presence in Grand Rapids while providing excellent learning and research opportunities for our Pharmacy students. By purchasing rather than leasing this facility, over time we will save \$13 million, which in the end is a huge savings for both taxpayers and our students.

Athletic Achievements

Many congratulations are in order regarding our student-athletes and their achievements:

To senior Arielle Goodson of Ferris women's volleyball team on earning All-American honors. She is the 11th All-American in our program's history.

To the women's cross country team and their coach Steve Picucci. Last weekend they finished 8th in the nation at the NCAA Division II championships in Louisville, Kentucky. This ties our highest finish in the history of the program.

To cross-country runner Tina Muir, who finished 11th in the nation at the NCAA meet. This is the third year in a row she has earned All-American honors. Tina is from St. Albans in the United Kingdom.

To women's basketball coach Tracey Dorow who recorded her 200th victory at Ferris State University when our team defeated Ohio Dominican. Our men's team also continued their winning ways.

To our men's ice hockey team, who bounced back from a tough loss at home to Michigan State Friday evening to beat the Spartans in East Lansing in overtime. The game was carried on the Fox Sports Detroit television network.

Holiday Reception

In my previous University-wide notice about the Ferris Employee Holiday Reception in the Rankin Center Dome Room this Thursday afternoon, I neglected to mention that Dining Services will again be sponsoring a silent auction for the United Way. I'm hopeful you will be able to join us from 3-5 p.m. This is a good time for our University community to get together and exchange holiday cheer - and additionally support the United Way. I hope to see you there.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that through your generosity we have exceeded our \$61,000 goal for the United Way. Thank you to Dr. Dan Burcham, and to the many, many faculty, staff and student volunteers who have made this success possible. Your support is critical to our United Way and the many organizations it helps support. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President