

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 17, 2014

Welcome back for the final seven weeks of the Spring Semester. If you enjoyed some free time last week, I hope it included both rest and relaxation. Although the temperatures are still very cold, the piles of snow are beginning to melt and spring must be somewhere, not too far away. I look forward to the remainder of this academic year with anticipation, as we bring to fruition projects we have been working on, help students complete the second half of the semester, and celebrate the achievements of our graduates through a series of events culminating in May commencement.

Distinguished Teachers

Each year the Academic Senate organizes selection of our university's Distinguished Teacher. This year we are fortunate to have two outstanding faculty selected for this honor - Dr. Gary Huey, Professor of History, and Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Associate Professor of Geography. In reading comments received about their work it is evident how much they are respected and admired by their students. In talking with both faculty members, it is easy to sense their joy and love of teaching. Please join me congratulating Drs. Huey and Johnson for this outstanding recognition of their success as teachers in shaping the lives of Ferris students.

The rigorous selection process for this honor takes several months and is led by the Distinguished Teacher Award Committee. Please join me in thanking the Committee, and extending a special thanks to Professor Bob Friar who served as chair. Committee members are

Kim Beistle, Health Processions
Adnan Dakuri, Pharmacy
Amy Dinardo, Optometry
Pasquale diRaddo, Arts and Sciences
David Hanna, Engineering Technology
Yuri Kononov, Library
Connie Morcom, Education and Human Services
David Steenstra, Business

The Distinguished Teaching Awards will be presented at the Annual Employee Service Awards Celebration, which will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 3-5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

Encourage Your Legislator to Support Higher Education

In past University Wide Messages I have shared the details of the higher education proposals Governor Snyder put forward this year. These include an overall 6.1 percent increase in base funding for higher education. Because of our success on the state's performance metrics, this would result in a 7.8 percent increase for Ferris State University. This is a very positive step in restoring funding for our students and our University. Much of the decision making in Lansing will take place in the next two weeks before the Legislature adjourns for its annual Spring Break.

I encourage you to contact your legislator and explain what an important difference this will make for our students and our educational mission. The message is simple –

- Please support the Governor's higher education budget recommendation.
- This is for a 6.1 percent funding increase and a 3.2 percent cap on tuition increases for next year.
- This reverses a decade-long decline in state funding for our students.
- It helps Governor Snyder to begin following through on his commitment to restore higher education to 2011 levels.

A good place to begin is by contacting our local legislator –

- Rep. Phil Potvin (517) 373-1747 PhilPotvin@house.mi.gov

If you do not live in Mecosta or Osceola County, here is contact information for other legislators in our area –

- 70th District Rep. Rick Outman (517) 373-0834 RickOutman@house.mi.gov
- 73rd District Rep. Peter MacGregor (517) 373-0218 PeterMacGregor@house.mi.gov
- 74th District Rep. Rob VerHeulen (517) 373-8900 RobVerHeulen@house.mi.gov
- 97th District Rep. Joel Johnson (517) 373-8962 JoelJohnson@house.mi.gov
- 100th District Rep. Jon Bumstead (517) 373-7317 JonBumstead@house.mi.gov
- 104th District Rep. Wayne Schmidt (517) 373-1766 WayneSchmidt@house.mi.gov

Overall information about the State of Michigan House of Representative members is available at <http://house.michigan.gov/>.

This Tuesday we are hosting our annual legislative luncheon in Lansing in the Mackinac Room of the Anderson House Office Building. We are providing bus transportation to and from the event. If you would like to join us, please contact Jody Greco at ext. 3600.

Strategic Plan Review at SPARC This Tuesday

Efforts to develop the next Strategic Plan for our University continue to move forward. The Strategic Plan and Resources Committee will be reviewing the near-final Strategic Plan draft at its meeting this Tuesday, March 18th at 3:30 p.m. in the West Campus Commons. This draft includes revisions developed from comments and suggestions from last January's Commission for the Future meetings, which engaged our public constituencies, and from a series of meetings on campus conducted by Provost Fritz Erickson. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who contributed to this process and encourage you to remain engaged as this plan enters the final stages of review.

SPARC meetings are open to everyone in the University community, so please join committee members as they review this document.

Women's Track

This past weekend student-athletes from Ferris' women's distance relay team of **Breeann Ovokaitys, Zoey Hohmann, Alyssa Osika and Shea VanKlompberg** placed seventh overall nationally at the 2014 NCAA Division II National Indoor Championships in Winston-Salem, N.C. The distance medley relay clocked a time of 11:51.71 in capturing their All-America honors. Individually, senior Anna Rudd also placed 7th nationally in the 5,000 meters with a time of

17:14.19. Please join me in congratulating our women's track student-athletes on their success at being named All-Americans.

Ferris Hockey

The men's ice hockey team is having a season to celebrate and remember. As spring break began they hosted Lake Superior State for two contests. In sweeping Lake State they clinched the Western Collegiate Hockey Association regular season championship. Their achievement will be etched on the MacNaughton Cup, which is held by the conference champion for a year. The nearly three-foot-tall MacNaughton Cup has a history dating back to 1913. The solid silver cup mounted on a wood base was unveiled at last Friday evening's game.

This past Friday and Saturday the team hosted Bemidji State in two exciting first-round WCHA tournament contests. Friday evening the Bulldogs handily won 8-0. This was the largest playoff margin in team history and the highest score since the 2002-03 season. Saturday evening's contest was very different as the Bulldogs trailed 2-1 going into the final minute of regulation play. Coach Bob Daniels pulled the goalie and we scored with just 45 seconds remaining. After the scoreless first 20-minute overtime period, team Captain Scott Czarnowczan scored a game-winning short-handed goal to bring the crowd to its feet. This was one of the most exciting games in the history of Ferris hockey, which included over 85 minutes of play. With these victories our team is now tied for third in the nation on Pairwise Ratings.

The victories advance our team to the WCHA Championship, which is this Friday and Saturday at Grand Rapids' VanAndel Arena. Ferris plays Alaska-Anchorage at 7:07 p.m. Friday evening. A win there will put us in the tournament championship game Saturday evening at the same time.

Please join us to cheer the team to victory. It is our plan that with a good showing this weekend, the WCHA Championships will held be in Grand Rapids every other year. Ticket information is available here - <http://www.ferrisstatebulldogs.com/sports/mice/2013-14/releases/201403162i2giq>

Congratulations and continued success to all of our hockey players, coaches and fans.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president