

## President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
March 16, 2015

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### Candidate for Provost Open Sessions

After an initial interview, the Provost Search Committee has scheduled Dr. Paul Blake, currently Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, for interviews on campus Wednesday and Thursday, March 18 and 19. There will be open sessions with Dr. Blake on Feb. 18 from 10-11:30 a.m. in the University Center, Room 203, and from 3-4:30 p.m. in URC Room 202B. I very much encourage you to participate in these open sessions with Dr. Blake.

To review Dr. Blake's full résumé in advance, please go to <http://www.ferris.edu/fsuintranet/paul-blake.pdf>. This is a Ferris Intranet address and can only be accessed if you are connected to the university network. As with previous candidates, I very much appreciate your input and analysis of Dr. Blake.

### Diversity Audit

As part of a year-long diversity audit, the Ferris community is invited to participate in a Diversity and Inclusion Climate Survey. Data from this survey, along with information gathered from recently conducted on-campus interviews and focus groups, will help in the creation of a new University diversity and inclusion plan.

The survey will be accessible starting today, March 16, through April 3. IBIS Consulting, the external experts contracted by the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion to facilitate the audit, will be sending Ferris students, faculty and staff an email containing a link to the survey. I am assured that all responses, including any personal information, will be kept strictly confidential. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. IBIS will submit a final report to the University based on analysis of the data. Those who complete the survey will be eligible to win prizes, including iPad minis, Beats and Ferris gear.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and provide your experience, observations and insight. Your input is important to the formulation of a new diversity and inclusion plan.

### SPARC

This Tuesday, March 17, at 3p.m. in the University Center room 202A, the Strategic Planning and Resource Council will hold its March meeting. The two main topics for discussion will be strategic planning metrics and the university-wide strategic enrollment planning initiative. SPARC meetings are open to the entire Ferris community. If your schedule allows, I hope that you will attend.

### Women's History Month

Each year during March, the Office of Multicultural Student Services coordinates and collaborates with groups that celebrate Women's History Month. I especially want to draw attention to a program Thursday evening with Vivian Pickard, the keynote speaker for the Women in Leadership and Learning conference sponsored by our Student Government Association. Ms. Pickard is a Ferris alumna with a remarkable story of success. Women's History Month events this week include -

- #MAKEITHAPPEN, Tuesday, March 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., University Center

- “The Help,” movie screening and discussion, Tuesday, March 17, p.m., FLITE 159
- Woman At Risk human trafficking awareness event, Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m., UC 202A
- Women Investing in Leadership and Learning conference, Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m., UC 202, keynote speaker Vivian Pickard, Ferris Distinguished Alumnus and President, General Motors Foundation

Women’s History Month events are co-sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Office, the Office of International Education, Student Government, Panhellenic Council, Sigma Lamda Gamma and You Beautiful Black Woman. A flyer of the month’s events is available at <http://ferris.edu/omss/WHM2015CalendarofEvents.pdf> . For more information visit [www.ferris.edu/omss](http://www.ferris.edu/omss) , [www.facebook.com/FSUOMSS](http://www.facebook.com/FSUOMSS) , or Twitter @fsuomss.

### Legislative Testimony

On Monday, March 2, I presented testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education. Subcommittee members Sen. Hertzell, Sen. MacGregor and chair Sen. Schuitmaker were joined by Sen. Judy Emmons and Representative Phil Potvin for the session, which took place in the Founders Room of our University Center. We were truly fortunate to be the only university testifying before the subcommittee that day.

In my remarks, I touched upon recent trends in state funding of higher education, the decline in state support for student financial aid, Governor Snyder’s executive budget proposal, MPSERS reform and Ferris’ career-oriented educational mission. Two Welding Engineering Technology students - Cheyenne Kelly and Brad Williamson - addressed the subcommittee about their experiences at Ferris, and the need for additional space in the Swan building to support enrollment and educational needs in their program. They did a remarkable job of giving the senators insight into the workings of the WET program.

After the testimony, the subcommittee and visitors toured the University Center and the Swan building. I believe everyone was most impressed with the University Center, and left with an appreciation of how much more we could do for students with an expansion of our Swan building.

Links to both the testimony and accompanying charts is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/presentations/2014-2015/index.htm> . I encourage you to take a few moments to review these remarks. This remains a positive funding year for higher education and we will wait for further developments as the budgets advance from the higher education appropriations subcommittees.

### Good News

As we enter the second half of our spring semester, there are many accomplishments by Ferris students, faculty, and staff to celebrate. The following is only a small selection of the latest Good News items. For a complete list I encourage you to go to <http://www.ferris.edu/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

- Ferris State University sponsored the Annual Hispanic Youth Leadership Conference organized by Latin Americans United for Progress in Holland. Participants from FSU included students Steven Gonzales, Keanu Marquez, and Erika Reyes-Hoyos together with Jessica Cruz, Omar Gonzales, Israel Ledesma, and Carlos Sanchez.
- For the second year in a row the Center for Latin@ Studies received a \$25,000 donation from the DeVos Foundation to continue the *Promesa* Summer Success Program, which provides

nine credits of college courses to rising high school seniors. The Center also launched a pilot program offering career and educational planning this spring to students who successfully completed the 2014 *Promesa* Summer Success Program.

- Corey Bledsoe, dual major in Insurance and Risk Management and Actuarial Science, has been selected as a national Risk and Insurance Management Society Anita Benedetti Scholar and will represent Ferris at the RIMS annual conference in New Orleans.
- The Teacher Education program's TEAC accreditation status is now effective until fall 2019.
- Members of the Ferris Formula SAE, Baja SAE, and Formula-Hybrid teams attended the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Michigan International Auto Show at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids to greet visitors, answer questions about their projects and vehicles on display, and talk about their education. Student Colin Kuzniar was interviewed on TV-8.
- The College of Health Professions established, as a faculty-driven initiative, the College of Health Professions Empowerment Award, to encourage leadership development among third and fourth-year students in the college.
- SaraJane Fellin, Katherine Johnson, Hallie LeBlanc, Mellissa Redman and Brenda Sipe from KCAD are contributing original artwork to an ongoing display by the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Grand Rapids aimed at making art more accessible.
- Emeritus David Greenwood is currently featured in "Stop Motion," a solo retrospective exhibition at Grand Rapids Art Museum that runs through May 17.
- Deborah Rockman is exhibiting eight works from her series entitled "The Space Between Us" at the Muskegon Museum of Art's Tuttle Gallery.
- At the Michigan Optometric Association's Winter Seminar, Sarah Hinkley was selected as the "Key Person of the Year," Brian McDowell was announced as the "Optometric Educator of the Year," and fourth year student Samantha Fordyce was named "Student of the Year."
- The College of Pharmacy established the faculty-driven College of Pharmacy Student Appreciation Fund to provide care packages for Pharmacy students, especially during final exam week.
- At the Student Success Conference at Oakland University, Karen Royster-James, Todd Stanislav and Bill Potter presented "Academic Excellence and Student Success in Gateway Courses," and Susan McNamara, Shelly VandePanne and Bill Potter presented "Full Press for Student Success."
- Kognito, an on-line training module, has been purchased for the campus community to participate in learning more about Veterans' needs. This may be accessed online at <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/human/Training/Kognito.htm>
- The Grand Rapids Griffins Youth Foundation selected Ferris as its Partner of the Year thanks to the collaborative effort between Student Affairs/Admissions and the Office of General Counsel.
- The Corporate and Professional Development Center is extending Ferris resources to collaborate with government and industry. Recent partnerships have resulted in more than \$200,000 in projects with the American Iron and Steel Institute and the Manufacturing program, Ventra Evert, Team Elmers, AK Steel, OE Learning, the United Association and the Electrical Generating Systems Association. Additionally, the CPDC received more than \$161,000 to operate the 2015 Motorcycle Safety program.
- Two members of Ferris' women's volleyball program, Caroline Heitzman and Megan Vander Meer, took part in the 2015 USA Volleyball Women's National Team Tryouts at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

- The Ferris Campus Shuttle via Big Rapids DART is experiencing significant and increasing use. The final two weeks in January ridership was 3,564; the first two weeks in February ridership was 7,565.
- Fall semester there were 186 intramural teams with 1,814 participants, with 716 intramural contests officiated by student referees.
- The intramural women's flag football team competed in the National Intramural Flag Football tournament, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation among 42 teams.
- The Ferris Foundation announced new members of its Board of Directors:
  - Melinda Anderson, vice president of Marketing and Product Management for BlackRidge Technology in Santa Clara, Calif., and an Arts and Sciences graduate.
  - Gary Granger, Ferris Board of Trustees member and immediate past chair of the Board.
  - Tim Murphy, vice president of Corporate Compliance for MacAndrews and Forbes Holdings in New York City, retired deputy director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a Criminal Justice graduate.
- The Higher Education Marketing Report selected the 2013 Ferris Foundation Annual Report for a silver award, the Fall *Ferris Magazine* for a bronze, and the 2014-15 Admissions Recruitment package for a bronze.

## Athletics

Senior Samantha Johnson ran a personal best in the mile at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championship Saturday in Birmingham, Ala. In placing seventh in the nation she earned All American honors. Please join me in extending congratulations to Samantha on her achievement.

On March 8, the men's basketball team won the GLIAC Conference tournament in Sault Ste. Marie by defeating Lake Superior State University 87-82 in the championship game. The win earned our Bulldogs an automatic bid to the NCAA Division II regional quarterfinal tournament held in Louisville, Ky. There, they again faced LSSU.

Heading into the tournament, Ferris had a record of 23-8 overall. Against Lake State in the NCAA regional they led by five points with less than a minute remaining. The game went into overtime where we came up short. Our team had a wonderful season, capped off by the second GLIAC tournament championship in school history. Congratulations to the student-athletes on our men's basketball team, and to our coaching staff headed by Andy Bronkema on a very successful and exciting season.

Our men's ice hockey team finished the final series of the regular season with two victories against LSSU on March 6 and 7. That Saturday evening senior goalie C.J. Motte achieved his 64<sup>th</sup> victory, a school record. This shutout victory was his 15<sup>th</sup>, the most among active goalies in the NCAA. His achievements earned him WCHA defensive player of the week honors.

This past weekend the team took part in the WCHA tournament quarterfinals, facing off against host Bemidji State University. Friday evening our team won convincingly, 4-1. Saturday evening was the longest hockey game in Ferris history, going into three overtime periods, before the Bulldogs pulled out the victory 3-2, ending Bemidji's season for the second year in a row.

Our team will next be in action this Friday evening taking on the top team in the conference, Minnesota State - Mankato at the Xcel Center in St. Paul, Minn. Game time is 8:37 p.m. eastern. Congratulations to Coach Bob Daniels, his staff and our players as they move to the WCHA tournament semifinal game.

