Bullet Points for Academic Affairs Unit Action Plan

The following four areas were identified by the deans' council as priority areas for 2007-08. Our abbreviated report of progress is provided.

Assessment
<u>Successes</u>
- An assessment budget was allocated for special initiatives
- All Colleges appointed Assessment Committees that will lead college-level efforts
- Ferris was accepted into the Higher Learning Commission's Assessment Academy, and a muli-disciplinary team has been appointed that will attend three days of training February 20-22
- A mentoring program was conceived by the Academic Affairs Assessment Committee and will be promoted imminently
- Inquiries into Teaching and Learning was proposed by the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, funded both by the new assessment budget and the FCTL – and 20 people "signed on"
- A new course-level assessment award was initiated – to recognize exemplary course-level assessment by individuals and/or teams
- Many special learning opportunities have been provided, including a full day with Dr. Marilee Bresciani of San Diego State University and an opening-week session with Dr. Jennifer Fager of Saginaw Valley State University
- Investigated options for a software tracking system for assessment and evaluation information

<u>Future Plans</u>
- Extend the use of evidence in making instructional decisions
- Expand course-level assessment
- Continue professional development to move toward increasingly sophisticated assessment strategies
- Implement the TracDat system for Yearly Administrative Reviews, Academic Reviews, multi-section courses, and General Education

Collaboration
- Multiple multi-disciplinary task forces addressed particular problems this year – including development of a diversity plan, recommendations on study-abroad changes, policy updates, etc.
- Regular meetings occur between Academic and Student Affairs to address shared interests and improve systems
- Multiple international initiatives are being explored or developed
    - Vietnam – Masters in Education – led by Phil Watsonh
    - Expanded international student recruitment – Luzia Tartari
    - Potential programs in China in partnership with Lambton College of Sarnia

- o Education programs in France
- FerrisConnect engaged individuals from multiple divisions in transitioning from WebCT to FerrisConnect (IT, Registrar, and Academic Affairs)
- A Cross-University Steering Committee has been appointed to guide the University's reaccreditation efforts – preparing for a 2010-2011 HLC Visit

Curriculum
Successes
- University Curriculum Committee Manual was updated to incorporate course assessment plans
- Deans are working with Colleges to assure that all courses have identified measurable learning outcomes

Future Plans
- Course-level outcomes in all courses by Fall 2008 – required by HLC
- Accelerating course documentation to enable multi-purposing of learning modules or object

Online Learning
Successes
- Increased enrollments - Student enrollments in fully online courses (SCH) increased by x %
- Increased number of courses and now a few fully online programs
- Large numbers of faculty utilizing FerrisConnect to produce fully online, blended, or web-enhanced courses
  - o As of January 31, 331 faculty and staff have been trained in the new FerrisConnect system
- A new SAI was developed and piloted that will be more valuable in evaluating online instruction
- An expanded, re-energized Advancing Online Task Force is addressing key issues in improving the online systems, including
- An Academic Affairs professional was hired to dedicate half-time to online development
- A task force has been convened to examine options for recording systems- recording technologies - to complement online learning.

Future Plans
- Delineating a model of e-learning for Ferris that accounts for the varied aspects essential to quality programs
- Assuring increasing quality of online offerings to remain competitive
- Expanding the Ferris presence for high-quality online offerings to serve a national and/or international audience