

Ferris State University

President's Council Meeting Summary February 5, 2020 9:00 a.m., CSS 301C

Attendance:

Bachmeier, Blake, Eisler, Huisman (for Cook), McCrackin, Percy, Pilgrim, Postema, Ward-Roof

Agenda Items:

- Coronavirus – A group consisting of VP's Blake and Ward-Roof, Dean Bentley, Peter Bradley and Piram Prakasam was convened to discuss the current situation in China regarding coronavirus and University sponsored travel. After discussion with Council members, it was decided that a suspension of travel to China and Southeast Asia would be appropriate at this time. An announcement will be sent out via University wide notices.
- Plaza Roosevelt – Moving ahead with Plaza Roosevelt, Ferris hopes to lease space from the Grand Rapids Public Schools with Board approval. This will allow Ferris to put their money toward programs and not facilities.
- Provost Search – VP Pilgrim provided a brief update on the progress of the Provost Search. There is quite a large pool and the committee has met to discuss viewing the files. They meet again on February 19 to shorten the list in preparation of airport interviews February 29 and March 1.
- Budget – Sally DePew gave a brief budget overview to prepare VP's for upcoming planning sessions in the Spring.
- Board of Trustees – There will be a conference call on Monday, February 10. The next working session and meetings will be February 20 and 21. Agenda and itinerary were discussed by Council members.
- Innovation – Due to the emphasis on innovation in the new Strategic Plan, President Eisler has put some funding aside that will be available to faculty and staff to empower them to do things differently.
- Campus Incidents in the Classroom –VP's Blake (lead), Pilgrim, Ward-Roof and KCAD President McCrackin have put together a group of individuals to plan some conversations and education on current issues that could cause incidents on campus. The narrative will be to promote civility.
- EAB – VP Ward-Roof gave an update on recruitment enhancements that are happening with the use of EAB, a consulting firm with significant expertise in this field. They are helping with senior search applications, sophomore and junior inquiry generation (including parents) and a transfer portal. Admissions is testing an AI chatbot IVY, to provide answers to student inquiries 24/7.

- Title IX Training – VP Ward-Roof supplied a handout showing how to view either Responsible Employee or Rebecca Veidlinger’s Title IX training from the Title IX webpage: <https://www.ferris.edu/title-ix/prevention-education-and-training.htm>. Presidents Council members agreed to review this before the next pc meeting. All faculty and staff are encouraged to do this if they were unable to attend one of the sessions.

Round Robin

- **VP Ward- Roof** – an email regarding the Career Fair and registering to vote will be sent out to Council Members.
- **VP Blake** – there is a new communications lab in FLITE 121 for practice recording of speeches for feedback. All colleges will be able to use it. Joe Strokirch is providing training.
- **President McCrackin** – the UICA show “A Beautiful Struggle” opens on February 21. The show is made possible by the largest grant UICA has received to date.
- **VP Pearcy** – supplied a hand out of the most recent campaign update. Kurt Hofman and Tim Murphy are new President and Vice President of the Foundation Board, respectively. Also new board members are Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Emily Hancock and Alton Smith. The 24 hour giving challenge is April 2. Alumni events in Florida were very well attended.
- **VP Bachmeier** – PageUp software to replace People Admin is not ready to launch yet. If needed a HR liaison will walk you through the process temporarily. The ability to rate the relative strength of user passwords will go live in a couple weeks.
- **VP Pilgrim** – felt the new format for SPARC meeting was engaging. During Academic Senate there was some discussion of virtual classrooms. VP Pilgrim and Franklin Hughes have discovered a lot of other Ferris students that are not from the Hampton group. He has given dozens of presentations in 5 states over the past month on these Ferris Institute grads.
- **VP and General Counsel Postema** – Don’t forget about the Legislative Luncheon on Feb. 11.
- **President Eisler** – has upcoming meetings in Lansing regarding the Virtual Learning Center. Special thanks to Mike Hughes, the architects and staff that put in extra work on this project. Friends of Ferris this year is a chance to donate without an auction. Sarasota and Naples alumni events were some of the best ever. Bonita Springs was an incredible location. Leonard Johnson spoke in Naples and is very passionate about Ferris and the Disc Golf Team. The 9 & 10 News did some great spots on our ESports Club which now has over 300 members.

Next meeting date:

February 19, 2020, Big Topics, 9:00 am, CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 11:37 am

Submitted by Terri S. Cook