Ferris State University

President’s Council
Meeting Summary
September 23, 2020
9:00 am, Zoom

Attendance:
Bachmeier, Cook, Eisler, Fleischman, McCrackin, Pearcy, Pilgrim, Postema, Ward-Roof

Guests: Mandy Seiferlein, Jeff Ek, Jennifer Hegenauer, Franklin Hughes

Agenda Items:

- Sept. 9, 2020 Meeting Summary approved for posting.

- **HLC Visit Preparation** – Mandy Seiferlein, Jeff Ek, and Jennifer Hegenauer provided an update on the October visit with HLC. They discussed with Council Members possible items for discussion during the visit, additional documents requested by the Visiting Team and final preparations for the visit. The Assurance Document was submitted on September 4.

- **Board of Trustees October Meeting** – Council members reviewed and discussed the agenda and items to be presented to the Board during the meetings scheduled for Oct. 1 and 2.

- **Strategic Plan** – Franklin Hughes shared with Council members on-line forms for the Strategic Plan. These will assist in tracking updates and progress made on the Strategic Plan Initiatives.

- **Study Away for Spring and Summer 2021** – Council members discussed the possibility of study away and study abroad for Spring and Summer 2021. With bans on travel to many countries, Council members concluded that it is still unsafe to travel abroad. Provost Fleischman will provide more information on courses with study away components to determine how many students will be affected and where they would be traveling before a decision is made regarding domestic travel.

- **Student Accommodations** – Due to COVID-19, Provost Fleischman provided a proposal to allow students to request a grade be changed to credit or no credit for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 until the end of the Spring semester. The Council members agreed with the proposal and also that late withdrawal from classes will be moved to December 11.

- **Spring Break: Options for Consideration** – Provost Fleischman provided two options to Council members to consider for the Academic Calendar for Spring 2021. Both included eliminating Spring Break week to help keep the campus safe. The updated calendar will be distributed to campus.
• **Re-Entry to Campus** – VP Ward-Roof gave an update on campus re-entry. At this point we are having success in containing cases on campus. Wastewater testing is providing valuable data, the UREC opening has gone very well. With more time to plan, virtual commencement ceremonies are already in the works so that we can make the event really special in this environment. Full details will be available on the website soon.

• **Round Robin**
  - **VP Ward-Roof** – currently working on compiling the reasons that students did not come to Ferris this fall and what we could have done better. The data from this will be used to reach out to those students and see if we can get them here in the future.
  - **VP Pilgrim** – please give your support to promote the conversations with students that are coming up. VP Pilgrim will be discussing Black Lives Matter during his TV show Thursday night with guests Byron and Patience.
  - **Provost Fleischman** – town halls are in the works to discuss the Consensual Relationship Policy with the campus before it goes to the Board in December.
  - **VP Bachmeier** – If anyone has questions on documenting the CARES reimbursement funds, please reach out to his office. They are ready and willing to help. They would appreciate this information by October 2.
  - **VP Pearcy** – UA&M received a grant in support of Plaza Roosevelt.
  - **President McCrackin** – VP Pilgrim will be the guest speaker at an event at Kendall about racial imagery.
  - **President Eisler** – the State should have a final budget approved by the legislature tomorrow. Has been working with the legislators on several issues affecting the University.

Meeting adjourned 12:03 pm

Submitted by Terri S. Cook