

Ferris State University

President's Council Meeting Summary November 6, 2019 9:00 a.m., CSS 301C

Attendance:

Bachmeier, Blake, Cook, Eisler, McCrackin, Percy, Pilgrim, Postema, Ward-Roof

Agenda Items:

- **Honorary Doctorate Candidates**
Council members were encouraged to consider and submit candidates for Honorary Doctorate degrees to be awarded at the May Commencement ceremonies.
- **PCAF – BFA in Product Design**
President McCrackin presented a PCAF for a BFA in Product Design. This degree consolidates existing degrees in furniture, industrial design, and metals\jewelry that are experiencing low enrollment. The current proposal also is deigned to better meet the needs of potential employers. Council members reviewed the documentation and support the development of this degree.
- **Complaint Policy**
VP Ward-Roof shared a new overarching student complaint policy for the University that will replace numerous current complaint policies. This should make it easier for students to access and complete this process. It will also provide more uniformity across campuses for follow up and documentation of cases.
- **Bulldog Weekend**
This weekend full of events for students and their families was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Over 3100 people registered this year, up from over 2300 people last year. This event contributes to both enrollment and retention.
- **Title IX Training**
Council members discussed the recent University wide Title IX training. The speaker was well received and her case studies were pertinent in today's climate. The training is still available on line for those who were unable to attend.
- **Strategic Plan**
Council members discussed ways to publicize the new Strategic Plan. One suggestion was for the Mission, Vision and Core Values to be displayed around various parts of the campus on banners or plaques.
- **Retention Plan**
A University wide retention plan is very much a part of the new Strategic Plan. Council members have been asked to think about a Retention Plan and come ready

to discuss the topic in more depth at the next meeting November 21.

- **Provost Search**
The first meeting of the search committee is November 7. Discussion will revolve around what are important abilities and characteristics for a Provost. A tentative timeline is for the posting to go out in January, interviews in February, and candidates on campus in March/April.

Round Robin

- **VP Ward-Roof** – FSU vs. GVSU game is this Saturday. There will be a non-alcoholic option for tailgating with food and beverages. There is a bus coming to Dawg Days from West Shore Community College. Reminder of the Veterans breakfast on Nov. 11 and United Way Auction on Dec. 5.
- **Provost Blake** – MASU held a retreat last spring here at Ferris and did a tour of the Academic Literacies Center. MASU is featuring the Center on its website and will also feature the Innovation Fair.
President McCrackin– Kendall's interactive open house will be hosting 200 plus students. Pres. McCrackin will be talking on FOX 17 about the events. This will be Kendall's biggest open house to date.
- **VP Bachmeier** – There is a final candidate for IT and an announcement will be made as soon as references are checked.
- **VP Percy** – Thank you for your support for the Foundation Gala last Friday night. Bob Hegbloom was a superb keynote speaker. As always, please send your feedback. Attendees really enjoyed visiting with the students at the event.
- **VP Pilgrim**. – The search committee will be interviewing the third candidate for an educator for the Jim Crow Museum today. This person will be creating curricula for high schools in Michigan and also creating workshops for corporate entities. VP Pilgrim had a speaking engagement at LCC on Tuesday and was impressed with the school. He witnessed firsthand the impact of enrollment going from 20,000 to 11,000. Podcasts about the Museum are in the works and they will be happening soon. He also spoke at Hope College and shared some things about their past with them. It went well. He is doing many presentations this year to help raise money for the new Museum space.
- **President Eisler** – There is a SPARC meeting next week Nov. 12. It will be Spence Tower's last meeting as the chair. Jennifer Dirmeyer will be the new chair. The Foundation Board Meetings had very good discussions. VP Pilgrim's presentations on the Strategic Plan and the Jim Crow Museum were excellent. Kurt Hofman is the new Board Chair, Tim Murphy is the Vice Chair.

Next meeting date:

Nov. 21, Big Topics, 9:00 am, CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 10:40 am

Submitted by Terri S. Cook