

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, January 10, 2007
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Don Green, Tim Jacobs, Pat Klarecki, Karen Paine, David Pilgrim, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes – the discussion notes from December 6, 2006 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

POLC update - Tim Jacobs provided an update on personnel changes in Public Safety. He reported that the Holiday Inn robbery has been solved and that unauthorized activities in the utility tunnels have been stopped.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham distributed a document regarding enrollment statistics for review and discussion. He extended his appreciation for the assistance he has received regarding recruitment. Dave Eisler noted the improvements in enrollment processing that Dan has accomplished. Additional discussion included auxiliary funding levels; the significance of student behavior on the Big Rapids campus; enrollment changes at other institutions; and resources at other FSU campus locations. Dan reported that the Dawg Days events have been well attended, and incidences of alcohol and drug offenses have dropped significantly. He reported on the challenges of the social norming campaign, and several council members noted seeing evidence of the rewards of ratcheting the admission standards.

Academic Affairs update – Pat Klarecki extended his appreciation to Dan Burcham for providing data that was helpful for several projects within Academic Affairs, including the recent growth in UCEL. He reported that the WebCT project is now known as “Ferris Connect” through the naming contest. Jeff Ek is in the process of re-branding web pages. The division will be advertising the offering of faculty participation for the pilot of Ferris Connect. The classes will go live during summer semester. Pat reported that Vice President Harris was very pleased with the faculty participation at the December commencement ceremonies. Dave Eisler noted the attendance at both ceremonies and reported that the stage is now handicapped accessible. He extended his appreciation for the remarks provided by the faculty speakers and noted that their remarks have been placed online as well. Pat extended an invitation to faculty and staff to attend the division-

wide celebration to be held next Tuesday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room. He noted this event would have been held prior to the holiday break, but due to busy campus activities, it was moved to January. Pat reported that Vice President Harris is currently with the Political Engagement Project at Stanford, and the Television Production program has developed a DVD on the Political Engagement Project. Pat also reported that the University has received a grant award from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$500,000 to be used in scholarships for math and science. He noted the University is hosting second-year Allied Health students on campus, indicating that the University is working closely with the Intermediate School District's curriculum where the students can come here for their senior year and have those credits applied to a degree program. He extended his appreciation of the efforts of MOISD Superintendent Curtis Finch and his approach to this type of collaboration for helping our area students. In response to an inquiry from David Pilgrim, Pat noted that the point person for the federal grant is Dean Matt Klein.

Ferris Faculty Association update – Mike Ryan raised concerns relative to off-campus positions and off-campus supervision. He inquired about who is serving as the Affirmative Action officer on campus. Miles Postema reported that he is handling these responsibilities until a permanent replacement for the position is found. Mike Ryan asked a series of questions regarding the non-renewal of Michael Harris as Vice President for Academic Affairs. In response to these, Dave Eisler provided information regarding presidential authority delegated by the Board of Trustees. He noted that the Board of Trustees does hold working sessions where no action is taken. Dave Eisler affirmed that he provided a letter to the Vice President for Academic Affairs to help provide continuity in the transition of leadership for Academic Affairs; that it is the VPAA's responsibility on how to replace the Associate VPAA; and that Dr. Harris's responsibilities as VPAA continue through June 30, 2006. In response to an inquiry regarding a FOIA request to the General Counsel's office, Miles Postema noted there are differences in timing relative to the faxed delivery of FOIA requests versus other delivery types. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Dave Eisler noted that when concerns are expressed regarding accreditation, they are reviewed and addressed.

AFSCME update – Tom Weaver extended his appreciation for the meetings with union presidents and indicated he would appreciate monthly meetings with Steve Stratton. He reiterated his request to have a more understandable definition of exempt and non exempt employees on campus. Miles Postema extended an invitation to meet with Tom to put together the information for his needs. Tom extended his concern about the use of part-time employees and encouraged all to look at students again for assistance. He extended his appreciation for seeing favorable changes regarding disciplinary action and to all those who participated in raising \$580 for assistance for a CTA employee. Tom reported that there are still challenges that need to be addressed regarding health care, as some information may be misleading. He noted issues regarding equipment repair and the use of outside vendors, and requested the consideration of alternatives using University personnel, such as blended positions or overtime.

General Counsel update – Miles Postema provided an update on positions and searches in his division. He noted that the election results in November have impacted what he feels would be the optimal solution for the Governmental Relations position. He extended his appreciation for the hard work of all the employees in his division. He noted that this year's Friends of Ferris event will be held on Feb. 17 and encouraged all to identify items for the auction. In response to an inquiry from David Pilgrim, Miles noted that the individual from his division who will be handling the Affirmative Action responsibilities will likely have a title that more closely reflects the full responsibilities of that position. In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver, Miles extended an invitation for Tom to meet with him regarding his listing on the Friends of Ferris flyer for the Feb. 17 event.

Administration and Finance/University Advancement and Marketing update – Rick Duffett noted that the physical plant has been busy and is hoping the break in the weather will help with the utility budget. He extended his appreciation for the successful collaborative event with charter schools and alumni office.

FSU-Grand Rapids update – Don Green indicated there was nothing to report to the council.

Diversity update – David Pilgrim provided an update on his activities during his first week as Chief Diversity Officer and a brief overview of his plans for the near future. He noted that he will be presenting a reading next Monday in Rankin Center. At this session (from 10 am to noon), they will be honoring a campus group. He indicated he is on his way to speak at Utah Valley State College. He extended his appreciation to Dave Eisler for his appointment to this position. Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to David and noted the success of the volunteer-member search committee.

President's update – Dave Eisler reported that task forces presented results and recommendations on December 15th and noted that these materials are online. He provided a brief update on budget factors for the rest of this and next year. His discussion included preliminary enrollment figures, the condition of the state budget and potential for an executive order, and the potential impact of phasing out of the Single Business Tax. He also related the efforts of legislators and University officials to obtain funding for the Optometry Building during the December legislative session. He noted that a Ferris Legislative Day is scheduled for March 27, 2007 in the Mackinac Room. In closing, he reported that the University has met our United Way goal of \$56,000.

At 10:10 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine