

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Tim Jacobs, Pat Klarecki, Karen Paine, David Pilgrim, Mike Ryan, Libby Schmidt, Melissa Sprague, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes – the discussion notes from January 10, 2007 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

President Eisler extended his congratulations to Tim Jacobs for his accomplishment in earning Detective status.

University Advancement and Marketing update – Rick Duffett reported on three successful alumni events in Florida. He reported that the NACUBO study on Foundation returns was recently completed, and the Ferris Foundation's 3-year return is in the top 4% of all Foundations that report to NACUBO. He reminded the council that currently steel is going up between the IRC building and the College of Business, and the project is scheduled to be completed in the fall. He commended the students, staff and public safety officials who were responsible for saving a student's life in the Rec Center recently. Tom Weaver noted that it was the students who grabbed the defibrillators to help the student. Tim Jacobs noted that they are going to recognize the two workers who assisted. Dave Eisler noted that Paul Sullivan also participated during this situation. Allen Sutherby noted that the University needs to keep track of the servicing of the defibrillators so they remain ready for use at all times.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham provided an update on student receptions and extended his appreciation for the assistance during Dawg Days. He distributed and reviewed a report on application and enrollment statistics and a report containing Student Judicial Services data, noting the significant reduction in crime statistics. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Dan Burcham reported that there is a system of timing how long it takes to process various stages in the application/enrollment process in the Banner system. In addition, Dan noted that during the fall, dual data input was necessary, but now that has been eliminated. Dave Eisler reminded the council that changes in enrollment are generally due to a combination of factors, including the ratcheting of enrollment standards, transfer students, and other factors. Regarding transfer students,

Mike Ryan suggested having a visiting lecture series where our faculty go to other community colleges and give lectures on things relative to Ferris. Dan Burcham said his office is tying financial aid into recruitment; Pat Klarecki indicated that we have a number of transfer guides throughout the country.

In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver, Rick Duffett requested that if any employees find discrepancies in their W-2 forms, they should contact Rick directly.

Clerical Technical Association update – Allen Sutherby expressed a concern that was raised regarding the posting of part time positions. He then extended his appreciation of the attention and expedited service of the General Counsel's office, noting that contract maintenance is happening much more often.

Ferris Faculty Association update – Mike Ryan reported that the FFA contract has been completed in terms of the final proof, and it is ready to sign, but he has not received a copy of it yet. President Eisler noted that Mike should have it within the next 10 days or sooner. Mike Ryan provided an update on his follow-up to his FOIA requests and requests for dates for contract maintenance. He noted that he has made progress in gathering information about financing for off campus locations and on the statements on withheld pay. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Pat Klarecki noted that the Deans have until March 15 to send their planning information to the VPAA's office.

Public Safety update – Tim Jacobs reported that there were no major crimes last month on campus. There will be recognition of the students at the Rec Center. He indicated they have hired Nick Greenway from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and they have a letter of intent for Derek Turner from Flint to join the Public Safety staff. Tim noted that they are looking at the CERT program – the emergency response program for the community – and how it can implement that at the campus level. Jim noted that Big Rapids city officers have also reported that their crime statistics are down as well and told the council that reports are now coming into Public Safety regarding city offenses, and that the students can be accountable for what they do in the city as well. Dave Eisler referenced a recent tornado in Florida and requested the investigation of what would happen at the University if something similar to that happened at 3 a.m. here. Rick Duffett suggested adding this discussion as a tabletop issue for the emergency response team.

AFSCME update – Tom Weaver indicated he is currently working on an issue regarding job descriptions and hiring. He expressed his concern that after reducing some of the qualifications in job postings, individuals were hired with no experience. He extended his appreciation for the efforts of Steve Stratton. He expressed his concern regarding handling the workload on campus when people have left, and the balancing of keeping work on campus rather than hiring outside contractors to do the work.

Academic Affairs update – Pat Klarecki reported on the activities in Academic Affairs during the 5th week of the semester. He reminded the council that this Sunday at 1:00

p.m. is the Honors Convocation in Williams auditorium. Year-end activities include the Spaghetti Bridge contest on March 24, and the Rube Goldberg competition and formula racing activities in the College of Technology. He encouraged all members of the council to sit in on any senior presentations when possible. He provided an update on the activities of the division's focus to become learning-centered, noting that the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning's sponsorship of John Tagg's program was well received, and they are looking at activities to engage students and bring "learning-centered" into the dorm rooms. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan regarding class size relative to lecturing and being learning-centered, Pat Klarecki indicated that while class size is one of several factors, there are no initiatives to reduce or enlarge class sizes at this time. Dave Eisler noted that the idea of being learning-centered does not apply to a certain teaching strategy – it refers to what the impact is on the student.

Birkam Health Center update – Melissa Sprague reported on the status of the replacement for Judy Issette at the Health Center. She noted that activity at the Health Center started out slower this semester, but they are getting busier now, seeing a lot of influenza patients. They have implemented new software (Intuition) which has slowed some things down a bit, but they should see improvement soon.

Student Government update – Libby Schmidt reported that the student government membership has more than doubled in size. She provided an update on the activities of the Health and Wellness Task Force; investigations into student activity fees at other universities; updating the housing and renting document; the Community Relations Committee working on a brochure where you can find student discounts throughout the community; looking at re-implementing discount cards sold last year; the Special Events Committee holding the WILL Conference on March 22 from 6-8 pm; the Campus Affairs Committee will be tackling newly-enforced parking policies and looking into another resolution regarding online degree auditing; the Bowl for Kids event raised \$200; they are sending five students to Texas A & M on Feb. 24; and, work continues on the legal advising program. In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver regarding the impact on minimum wage with student employees on campus, Libby noted that the Rec Center is focusing on Work Study students. Tom Weaver encouraged all divisions to take a look at funding to help fund our student employees.

Diversity Office update – David Pilgrim noted that the government separates alcohol and drug incidents, not recognizing alcohol as a drug. He suggested that the University may be able to request the services of Tom Behler to assist in the tabletop emergency response issue, as Tom has a background in disaster research. David provided an overview of the memo sent out to campus regarding his efforts on diversity. He indicated it would be helpful to have all Vice Presidents send a letter to their employees that they support the diversity office and encourage people to be cooperative in a timely way. He provided an overview of the 9 goals identified in the Evolving Diversity plan and noted several efforts already in place on campus. He directed the council to the Diversity website for information and resources. He noted that while he was pleased to see the crime statistics

go down, it would be helpful to determine how we can identify crimes that don't get reported. He expressed the concerns of students not being able to afford the handheld technology units and inquired if there was a way to assist them. Pat Klarecki will look further into that issue. David Pilgrim indicated there will be open forums on campus; there will be activities within communities and between surrounding communities and Ferris, and that the definition of diversity is quite inclusive and consistent with WN Ferris' ideas.

President's update – Dave Eisler expressed his appreciation to David Pilgrim for working on these issues. He provided an update on the Health and Wellness Task Force. He said he is pleased with how Judicial Services is functioning this year. He reported the good news on enrollment, including 200 more honors applicants than a year ago. He expressed his appreciation to Libby Schmidt for coming to the Academic Senate meetings. Due to weather conditions we have had some problems with buildings in the last couple of days, and requested that if anyone observed a problem, they should inform Mike Hughes as soon as possible. (Don't assume someone else is taking care of it.) On legislative issues, he noted that Ferris' hearing is scheduled for next Friday in Mt. Pleasant, and he will be discussing our goal for a system that supports more students, not one that punishes for growth. He will be working to help legislators understand the difference in programmatic costs and the continued impact of MPSERS. He noted that the SBT replacement or enhancement is not likely to be approved until summer. If approved, we will work to be included in the Community College promise proposed by the Governor. He noted that President Bush proposed the largest increase in Pell grants in history; however, the bad news is that he is eliminating the SEOG's (Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants). He will continue to monitor the issues regarding an executive order and will send a notice to campus regarding it. He cited specifics on a report entitled, *America's Perfect Storm*, regarding graduation rates peaking in 1969; the growing literacy gap among people; and the changes in the U.S. labor force. He reminded the council that the Friends of Ferris event is on Feb. 17 and encouraged all to attend.

At 10:29 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine