

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, March 3, 2004
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

In Attendance

Chuck Matrosic, Michael Cairns, Richard Cochran, Rick Christner, Dave Eisler, Raymond Gant, Jason Granger, Rick Griffin, Judy Issette, Tom Oldfield, Karen Paine, Bill Papo, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Dave Eisler provided a greeting to the members and an update on the men's and women's basketball games.

The discussion notes from 2/4/04 were reviewed. Changes were noted and will be reflected in the final copy for the website posting.

FFA Collective Bargaining Agreement signed – Rick Griffin reported that the Ferris Faculty Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement was signed on Monday, March 1. Hard copies should be available in the next few days.

Update on Greenville, Michigan – Tom Oldfield reported that a team went to Greenville, MI and met with several organizations to discuss partnering to provide opportunities for displaced workers of Electrolux. Discussion included types of opportunities available or proposed.

Additional discussion included current manufacturing process; benefits to different categories and locations of employees; displacement of jobs; effect on suppliers; FSU potential in the Greenville area; and future development of a unit within FSU to address special situations such as this.

Tom Weaver provided observations regarding the fostering of vocational training opportunities, the establishment of partnerships, and unemployment extensions for individuals to continue their education. Tom offered his assistance in contacting unions for partnering opportunities.

Dave Eisler provided information on current and continuing efforts with legislators. Rick Griffin offered his assistance relative to his experience and resources internationally.

Tom Weaver extended his appreciation to Tom Oldfield for his assistance with an international student. Tom Weaver reported that the student is currently doing fine.

Birkam Health Center update – Judy Issette provided an update on the recent case of Tuberculosis with a University student. Their clinic provided over 240 TB testings. No new active TB cases were found. Judy extended her appreciation of the teamwork with the health departments and others across campus. The Health Center will be having another clinic on April 26-27, 2004 for those students at highest risk due to original contact with the affected student.

Additional discussion included health center requirements for entry into this country for international students. A review of the Health Center's current policy is underway.

Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to everyone involved who worked so hard on this difficult situation.

Academic Senate update – Bill Papo reported on the Academic Senate meeting held yesterday. Bill stressed the need to notify all departments that want to make program changes for next year that they need to get their information to his office as soon as possible.

Minority Affairs update – Raymond Gant reported that two weeks ago they finalized a permanent SE Michigan Black Alumni Association. He reported that he will be hosting a technology-based camp this summer. Efforts are continuing to encourage the engagement of students in a variety of conversations on campus. Raymond is working with the Honors Program to assist them in increasing diversity within their program.

Additional discussion included the reactivation of the Hispanic Student Organization; admissions and recruitment efforts regarding Latino students; and other approaches to recruitment of minority students.

IT Matters. Highlights included launching of the SCT Banner project; concerns about viruses getting past the firewall in residence halls; Perfigo network security system (pilot scheduled for Bond Hall); PureMessage issues and implementation of the latest version of this software; Personal Websitest; Microsoft Software Distribution to employees – \$10 each title; a review of Dell product purchases; and a review of the Technology Assistance Summary report.

Mike Cairns reported that relationships and scholarship offers are key factors affecting diversity in the Honors program. Mike invited everyone to attend the teleconference, "Promoting the Public Good – Fulfilling Higher Education's Civic Mission" on Thursday at 1 p.m. in IRC 102. He extended his appreciation to Tom Oldfield for assisting in the funding for this teleconference.

Student Government update – Jason Granger’s update included discussion on Student Government elections; a review of Student Government initiatives, including residence hall security; lobbying efforts; Rankin Center space utilization; textbook pricing for students; and the veto of the Katke golf resolution for student fees. Jason reported that the Student Government wishes to address the misconception about Student Government relative to student fees. He reported that the Student Government provided a lot of input in the Michigan Campus Compact teleconference.

Richard Cochran extended his appreciation to Jason of how the retrofitting of Rankin Center was presented to the Board. Additional discussion included aspects of other student union areas and ideas.

Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Jason for his service on the Student Government.

AFSCME update – Tom Weaver expressed his concern regarding the response to the residence hall security issues with new door locks. He recommended cameras be installed instead. Additional discussion included the recommendation of a wellness program that includes the use of the Rec Center, and the negotiations for the new collective bargaining agreement are scheduled to begin March 11. Tom extended his appreciation to the committee for their quick response in helping to get the negotiations started soon.

Additional discussion from Tom included recommendation of a more partnership-friendly relationship with area businesses; passing of a proposal for temporary help for the summer and transfers of the AFSCME employees; AFSCME sponsorship of a \$250 fund for honor students to go to North Dakota; and rationale for filling AFSCME vacancies.

Additional discussion regarding area business partnerships included relationships versus responsible spending of taxpayer funds; best value for the institution; decentralized areas where vendor selection is open; the bidding process; proper communication of our purchasing policies to the community; and the request to utilize both University Printing and the Copy Center on campus.

Banner Project – Rick Christner reported that the financial records piece of the Banner Project will start the end of this month. He reported that the first noticeable item we will see is when FRS is launched, a year from this July. Richard Cochran reported that we will see Luminis (the portal) by June.

Update from Dave Eisler

- ◆ Administrative changes
 - Announcement of Michael Harris hired as VPAA – will start July 1, 2004
 - Appreciation that Tom Oldfield will continue as Associate Vice President

- We will not fill the position of Vice President for University Advancement and Marketing – Rick Duffett has accepted those responsibilities
- Scott Hill-Kennedy has been appointed as Director of the Ferris Foundation
- ◆ Update on legislative activities – the FSU hearing before the senate higher education appropriations subcommittee is Friday, March 5 at Cornerstone University
- ◆ The University Planning Committee is pushing forward on its assessment of university strategic directions – results are due to Dave April 1, 2004
- ◆ More meetings with the President are scheduled – 56 faculty/staff meetings have been held so far – plan is to provide the results of these meetings in April 2004
- ◆ Observations – Ferris is the fastest growing University in terms of head count during the last 4 years – we have grown about 22% - will be operating with 90 fewer employees in the fall even with this increase – the University is financially very strong, especially as compared to numerous other universities

Jason Granger extended his appreciation for the University's work with the city of Greenville, as it provides an accurate reflection of the mission of Woodbridge N. Ferris.

Adjournment – the council adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Leadership Council is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. in CSS 302.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine