

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, March 9, 2005
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

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

In Attendance

Rob Bowers, Dan Burcham, Roxanne Cullen, Adnan Dakkuri, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Raymond Gant, Scott Hill-Kennedy, Maria Knirk, Karen Paine, Allen Sutherby, and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes – the Discussion Notes from the 2/5/05 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Administration and Finance update – Rick Duffett reported that work is continuing on the MUCH program. MUCH is currently in negotiations with a third party provider and is hopeful to have implementation by July 1. He reported that he will be bringing forward to the Board a request for a franchise agreement with Quiznos. The franchise will be located in the Pug and will be operated by university employees. The division continues to look at proposals for housing partnerships. They plan on bringing this item forward to the Board, narrowing the selection of partners down from 5 to 2. He is also evaluating the refinancing of the 1995 bond issue.

AFSCME update – Tom Weaver reported on his attendance at a steering committee in Mt. Pleasant. He reported that some individuals from Michigan State University had indicated they were unhappy with the statement that MSU was a part of the MUCH program. Tom Weaver indicated that the individuals from MSU invited him to attend a meeting to see how they realized savings in their benefit programs. Rick Duffett reported that the MSU Board voted to become members of MUCH a few weeks ago. Tom inquired as to the reason for looking at the East campus apartments rather than the South Campus apartments for the housing partnership. Rick Duffett reported that the location makes a difference for an initial public private partnership. Ratings can be affected, and the East campus location is the best to begin with. Tom expressed his concern over maintenance issues in the South Campus apartments. Tom expressed ideas regarding flexible medical expense accounts. He provided information on the debit card system that is in use by some area charter schools (not FSU- authorized). He recommended that the university look at other options for medical expenses as employees near retirement, and investigate the IRS flexible spending accounts where funds could be carried over to the next year. He suggested it could be something offered to new employees as well.

Academic Affairs update – Roxanne Cullen reported that they are bringing in consultants to look at the university's international program on March 14-15, 2005. She encouraged everyone to attend. Roxanne reported that Academic Affairs distributed a newsletter to the faculty which is also available on their website. They have identified two projects for federal earmarks – one is with the Michigan College of Optometry, establishing a Michigan institute, working with children that do not have vision insurance; the other is an advanced, accelerated nursing degree program to deal with the nursing shortage. She reported they have been busy with the Freedom to Learn Project and are receiving excellent media coverage. They will be hosting a conference this summer for school teachers that are involved in this project.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel update – Scott Hill-Kennedy reported on the very successful Friends of Ferris dinner/dance/auction. He extended his appreciation to all involved.

Clerical Technical update – Allen Sutherby reported that everything is quiet at this time. Dave Eisler indicated he is looking forward to working with the CTA on their new contract.

POLC update – Rob Bowers indicated there was nothing new to report to the council.

Academic Senate update – Adnan Dakkuri reported that the Academic Senate will be holding elections the third week of March. He was pleased to announce that Doug Haneline will be serving as the Academic Program Review Council Chair, replacing Jack Buss. He extended his appreciation to Dan Burcham for bringing the test scoring service back to its original schedule. Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Adnan for running such nice and efficient Academic Senate meetings.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham reported that Student Affairs is performing studies of non-traditional and commuter students to determine what services they would like to see on campus. They are trying to maximize Rankin Center's services to meet the needs of the students. They are looking at the viability of having a bus service to run from Big Rapids to Grand Rapids and back. The Table Topics events in the CDR provide a good medium for finding out faculty and staff needs.

Tom Weaver extended his appreciation to Dan Burcham and his staff (in particular, Phil Tetsworth) for assisting a relative with financial aid.

Student Government update – Maria Knirk reported on her attendance at a conference at Texas A & M for student government organizations. She reported that the Student Government has 6 new members, and 2-3 additional students who are interested in joining. She reported that the Student Government passed a resolution regarding the Student Assessment Instrument, asking for a change in the way they are handled to

encourage anonymity. She will work with Academic Affairs on this item. For campus awareness, they have been SAFE Place trained, and are trying to arrange for tours to visit the Oakland GLTBA Center to see what services they have that we may be able to offer on this campus. They will also be visiting a women's center at Grand Valley. They would like to encourage female students and females around the campus/community to take the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) program. The next class is March 18-20th. Roxanne Cullen offered to provide information on the RAD program through the Ferris Professional Women.

Minority Affairs update – Raymond Gant provided information regarding proposed legislative changes relative to the King Chavez Parks initiative and the affect it would have on Ferris. He reminded the council of the upcoming SEMBAA event on the 26th of March – the Pistons/Celtics basketball game. He reported on the progress of the TOWERS program (Teaching Others What Establishes Real Success). The students rehearse their presentations, which include topics of selecting friends wisely, having persistence in challenging times, the power of words, and the urgency of now. They have received excellent media coverage. He continues his work on his book regarding the African American experience at Ferris. He extended his appreciation to the Ferris Foundation for their support of the project. He reported that he has received several positive comments regarding Ferris' new 1-minute jingle on WSMX. He expressed his concerns regarding increased demands on time relative to FSU GR and Kendall, and the need to determine what the university's strategy is as to our role relative to Grand Rapids and our other sites around the state. He provided information on the Women's Virtual Center and reported on the marketing of the Diversity Incidents Team.

President's update – Dave Eisler provided an update on the state legislature, including the activities on the proposed executive order for higher education and his activities in Lansing. He reported that April 13 is Ferris' date for presentation to the House; he is unaware of a date for the Senate yet. They are still working on a date for the annual legislative reception. The new trustees have confirmation hearings with the Senate Higher Education Committee today at 3:30 p.m.

Dave reported on the success of the Admissions New Student Receptions in February, particularly in Southfield and Lansing. The Ferris Foundation produced the 8th best return on college investment in the country (23.7%), and extended his appreciation of the excellent work of the Fund Evaluation Group. He reported that the Board of Trustee Committee meetings scheduled for March 30 have been moved to April 15 (Finance at 10 am, AA/SA at 1 pm). He encouraged everyone to attend the planning meetings which will be held March 31 and April 1 in Rankin Center. The 2005 Presidential Bus Tour will be held June 6 – June 9, 2005 and will be focused around community colleges. The schedule for the 4 days includes Lansing Community College, Mott Community College in Flint, Macomb Community College, and Grand Rapids Community College. Summer University is scheduled for June 13 – June 15, 2005. There will be an additional flexible day on June 16th. Much of Summer University will focus around the Banner project. The

men's basketball team is in the NCAA finals. We are seeded 3rd in the region and play the University of Indianapolis at noon on Saturday.

Dave extended his appreciation to the Council for meeting during spring break. He will notify the campus as soon as he has confirmation regarding the executive order.

At 9:28 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine