

*Approved September 12, 2007*

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the  
Leadership Council  
Wednesday, May 2, 2007  
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Don Green, Rick Griffin, Pat Klarecki, Karen Paine, David Pilgrim, Miles Postema, Melissa Sprague, and Allen Sutherby.  
Guest: Warren Hills.

**Briefing on Benefits Open Enrollment** – Dave Eisler introduced Warren Hills, Director of Human Resources. Warren distributed and the Council reviewed a summary of the Benefits Open Enrollment Process for FY08. Health benefits under the MUCH program will increase by 7.3% and the Priority Health HMO by 9.1 %. He noted that the University is prepared to offer online open enrollment as a pilot, with concurrent paper processing. He reported that at 2:30 p.m. today Jon Snead will provide a detailed presentation regarding cost increases and suggestions for plan changes that will reduce costs. Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Warren for meeting with the bargaining unit representatives regarding health care.

**Discussion Notes** – the discussion notes from April 4, 2007 were reviewed. One change was noted and corrected.

**Academic Senate update** – Rick Griffin reported that he was re-elected President of the Academic Senate; Khagendra Thapa was re-elected Vice President. The new Secretary is Lucy Ngoh of Pharmacy. The Executive Committee also consists of Phil Watson, Keith Jewett, and Kim Hancock. Rick encouraged all to attend this year's Academic Senate Retreat and asked for suggestions for presentations. David Pilgrim offered to address the Senate regarding diversity.

**University Advancement and Marketing update** – Rick Duffett provided an overview of the schedule of upcoming events. This schedule can be found on the UA&M website. He noted that on July 14 we will be in the Cherry Festival parade with the University's large blimp-shaped balloon. He provided an update on the positive year-to-date contribution numbers. He extended his appreciation to Academic Affairs and the College of Technology for their efforts in the dedication of the Whiting Turner auditorium.

**Administration and Finance update** – Rick Duffett indicated they will be quite busy this summer with a number of auxiliary activities and improvements; minor caps are ongoing; the IRC project needs to be ready by fall; it appears that our summer camps will have very

strong attendance; and our sports teams are doing very well. Rick shared a story regarding the extraordinary efforts of a custodian who helped a student find paperwork she mistakenly threw out. Rick said the faculty and students regarding the Rube Goldberg Award have done a fantastic job in public relations for us, and they were wonderful in representing the University. It was the main subject of the Jimmy Kimmel show they were invited to.

**Diversity Office Update** – David Pilgrim remarked on the wonderful student exhibits at Kendall and inquired if the University can get the Crimson and Gold people to get the photos from Kendall of that event. He also inquired as to what the University has in place regarding the notification of students and the campus community regarding events such as the Virginia Tech incident. Rick Duffett reported that we have a system where we can notify everyone more quickly than in the past, but we do need to be much more agile in getting the information out. David noted his two main concerns: 1) we need a system in place, and 2) we all need a way to respond to the inquiries. Dan Burcham noted that we are one of the few Universities that ask for a criminal background on students, and we are quite intrusive here relative to other Universities. In addition, Dan indicated that many people assume that the parents want to de-escalate the situation, when in fact they don't always want to come here to help.

**Clerical Technical Union update** – Allen Sutherby noted that he sits on the emergency management board that covers 13 counties. They are all getting city watch boxes; we already have a city watch box, but there should be one placed at a “central busiest location.” He indicated that there has been discussion regarding getting a box placed in our Telecommunications Center. Dave Eisler has requested that Dan Burcham have a small brochure to give to families. He also said there will be workshops prepared for faculty to instruct them on what they need to do in the classrooms during certain situations and inquired if there is a way we can partner with other institutions on this project.

**Academic Affairs update** – Pat Klarecki provided additional detail on the Rube Goldberg award and indicated they have started to build support for Skills USA. He said it started as a national organization, broken down into different state affiliate offices. He said there are roughly 220 + occupations in which students compete. FSU sent 13 students to State competition in various categories for college level competition, and we walked home with six gold medals. They now will be going to Kansas City. It provided a \$1,000 scholarship to high school students if they come to Ferris. In every area we entered we took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Pat reminded the Council of the notice regarding the appointment of Tom Oldfield as Acting VPAA and expressed his strong support of Tom in his 32 years of experience in this area. Dave Eisler and the Leadership Council applauded Pat Klarecki for all his efforts during the challenging times in Academic Affairs and at the University.

Pat expressed his appreciation for the attendance by legislators and support shown at the ceremony for the three-way articulation agreement with St. Clair Community College. He

invited all to attend the numerous breakfasts, lunches and other celebrations for this weekend's commencement ceremonies. Regarding the Banner system, Pat indicated he was pleased with the progress; they are getting projects done for the Academic Affairs division; they have a live pilot for Ferris Connect and are ready to train. They will be training another 50 individuals over the summer.

**Health Center update** – Melissa Sprague indicated they are seeing a few more injuries this semester at the Health Center, and it is helpful that they have a new nurse on staff now.

**Student Affairs update** – Dan Burcham reported that enrollment still looks good for Fall. Orientation is still ahead by 600 students; they have the last Dawg Days on May 19. Ferris Fest was a great and successful event, very well attended by the community. He noted that if we know that a community member is going to attend and will be bringing their children, have them come to the event early in the day. For those attending commencement, you need to know that a couple of our ceremonies will be large. He said his division is busy putting together a strategic advancement and enrollment plan.

**FSU-Grand Rapids update** – Don Green reported that over the spring semester they were up 17% in enrollment, and they are currently up by 22%, as they continue to grow rapidly in Grand Rapids.

**Governmental Relations and General Counsel** – Miles Postema indicated he had no updates at this time.

**Additional Items** – David Pilgrim expressed his concern regarding the menu items offered at our events, and that we need to be attentive that we do not offer *only* pork dishes at any event. Melissa Sprague noted that it is important to have vegetarian dish offered as well. David also reminded the Council that Summer University is scheduled for June 6-8, and they are seeking ways to get faculty to participate in more events. In addition he is asking each division to appoint committees for diversity and would like to have those committees established by June 1. David requested to be notified of any retreats where he may be able to make a presentation to the group regarding diversity.

**President's update** – Dave Eisler indicated that the Strategic Planning and Resource Council (SPARC) will be meeting on Monday; he will be announcing the members of the search committee for the new VPAA tomorrow; and he is working on the students' stories for the commencement ceremonies. He reported that David Morris of the Foundation Board was coming to the meeting on Saturday and had a motorcycle accident. He expressed his appreciation to the Council for their efforts this year and indicated that the Council will not meet again until fall.

At 9:36 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

**Submitted by:** Karen K. Paine