

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, May 5, 2004
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

Dave Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Richard Cochran, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Rick Griffin, Judy Issette, Tom Oldfield, Karen Paine, Allen Sutherby, Roberta Teahen, and Tom Weaver.

Dave Eisler provided greetings and extended his appreciation to the grounds crew for their beautiful work.

Discussion notes from 4/7/04 - The discussion notes from 4/7/04 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

AFSCME - Tom Weaver provided discussion regarding AFSCME concerns. His discussion included:

- ◆ 5% budget reductions and position concerns
- ◆ Maintaining level of campus services
- ◆ Open to looking at different opportunities
- ◆ Would appreciate early discussion
- ◆ Would appreciate a committee to discuss the issues

Rick Duffett provided additional information regarding the approaches to the budget reduction for the entire physical plant area. He reported that the exact actions to be taken will not be known until all variables have been identified, including severance packages and many other items. He indicated that he will meet with Tom Weaver as soon as the information is received and compiled, and that service levels on campus are under continuous review.

Dave Eisler provided additional information regarding the delegation of authority for the budget reductions and various approaches to the budget reduction issues.

Academic Affairs - Tom Oldfield reported that summer enrollment is up over 500 students as of this date (18.9%), and the number of students in the residence halls has tripled. Tom Weaver questioned the potential need for opening up another dining facility.

Dave Eisler reported that the long term prospects for summer are very bright. He reported that the individual who developed the dining contract\residence hall this effort is Rick Duffett. Tom Weaver extended his appreciation to Rick Duffett for assessing the feasibility of handling this new endeavor this summer.

President's update - Dave Eisler provided an update to the Leadership Council. His discussion included:

- ◆ Received good response at the Legislative Reception
- ◆ Projections on tuition increases and state reductions
- ◆ Parking fee increase still a bargain in Michigan - will help make over 180 new parking spaces (mostly perimeter) - investigating bus service

Ferris Faculty Association - Rick Griffin reported that the chart received by the faculty regarding summer school is confusing. There are concerns regarding distribution and payroll withholding. Rick Duffett requested an e-mail outlining the specific issues be sent to him.

Information Technology - Richard Cochran distributed *IT Matters* for review and discussion. Topics included the announcement of the new Database Administrator (David Steffens); Banner software installation update; Novell Netware 6.0 upgrade; investigating remote access to our files from off campus; address of the Sasser worm virus (reminder to make sure your own system is patched at home); removal of spyware from University computers; and a review of the TAC statistics.

Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Richard Cochran for his work on Information Technology and in the sharing of this important information. He reported that Richard Cochran is stepping down as Chief Information Officer to focus his attention on a number of library projects and digital resources.

Administration and Finance - Rick Duffett provided an update on the Michigan Universities Coalition on Health (MUCH). Topics of discussion included:

- ◆ Group formation
- ◆ Presentation by consultants
- ◆ Future steps in the process
- ◆ Viable vendors
- ◆ Structure of programs
- ◆ Projected timetable - goal is to get the entity in place within 6 months

Tom Weaver inquired on the buy-in from other institutions. Rick Duffett reported that it would benefit some universities more than others, but the initial numbers look beneficial to Ferris. He will keep everyone posted.

Dean's report - Roberta Teahen provided an update on the University Center for Extended Learning. Her discussion included graduation celebration schedules across the state; largest number of graduates ever in Traverse City (68); Red River College has 16 graduates, with several administrators from Red River attending Saturday's ceremonies; hometown bus tour - at 2 to 3 sites there will be signing of agreements; and UCEL is showing dramatic enrollment increases. She extended her appreciation for the collaborative efforts, which are producing great results even with a reduction in staff.

Tom Oldfield reported that a 4-course certificate program is being developed with Michigan Works for a medical records clerk. They are looking into other certificates that could lead into an Associates degree. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians are interested in possibilities with the hospitality management program for the Victories Casino.

Student Affairs - Dan Burcham extended his appreciation for the assistance during Dawg Days, including increased participation by faculty members and the continuous help from dining services. He reported that the final Dawg Days for this year will be held May 22nd.

Birkam Health Center - Judy Issette reported that the Health Center is seeing a lot of healthy students during this time, getting immunizations, pre-employment exams, and various physicals. There is also an increase in stress-related visits due to exam week. She reported that Paul Sullivan is in Philadelphia at this time and will be having surgery tomorrow.

Clerical Technical Association - Allen Sutherby extended his appreciation of the two clerical technical staff who received distinguished staff awards. He reported that the local MESSA representative indicated the projected increase in MESSA rates for the Clerical Technical employees would be around 11%.

Dave Eisler reported on recent campus events. He encouraged all to see the Kendall student exhibits. He extended his appreciation of the work of public safety, especially during this time of year. He also extended his appreciation of the faculty senate in working with the College of Business and with other programs, and recognized how quickly they considered and approved graduate certificate proposals from the College of Business.

Rick Griffin reported that the Academic Senate has really come a long way in expediting the process. They are more proactive and have made major improvements.

Dave Eisler reported on the schedule of events for commencement weekend, including the Board of Trustees meeting, Granger Center dedication, and commencement ceremonies. He provided a brief overview of student stories he will tell.

Tuition and Fees. Dave Eisler indicated that in reviewing the tuition and fee increases at other universities, he is seeing many fee increases across the state. Our increases will have no hidden fees.

Committee schedule. This is the last meeting for the year (June 2 scheduled meeting has been cancelled).

Dave Eisler provided an overview of the schedule for Summer University and encouraged all to attend. He extended his appreciation for the Leadership Council's work throughout the year, and indicated the date for resuming meetings in the fall has yet to be determined.

Tom Weaver requested an update on MPSERS. Dave Eisler provided information on what activities are in process, legislative presentations, and the challenges we face. Tom Weaver requested updates regarding this item.

Adjournment - at 9:44 a.m., meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Karen K. Paine