

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, December 1, 2004
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, Adnan Dakkuri, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Raymond Gant, Rick Griffin, Michael Harris, Scott Hill-Kennedy, Judy Issette, Maria Knirk, Karen Paine, and Allen Sutherby.

Review of 11-3-04 Discussion Notes - the discussion notes from the 11/3/04 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Master Plan and Student Housing - Rick Duffett reported that the Master Plan presentations in Big Rapids and Grand Rapids were well attended (with significant publicity in Grand Rapids). The plans will be posted online, and there will be more open sessions held after the first of the year. He also reported that an RFQ and RFP will be issued regarding future plans for the East Campus Apartments. Dave Eisler will continue efforts to increase campus awareness of these documents. Additional comment sessions will be held on campus after the first of the year

Birkam Health Center update - Judy Issette reported that four staff members of the Birkam Health Center attended a recent conference in Nashville, IN where they received new updates and ideas on their profession. Some changes will be implemented due to the information from the staff reports after this conference. The Health Center is expected to begin offering HIV/AIDS testing beginning Winter semester and will also be taking over this service for Mecosta County due to their loss of funding. Meningitis vaccines are up substantially over last year. The Health Center staff has received additional training on new guidelines for vaccinations.

Academic Affairs update - Michael Harris reported on two recent accreditation visits to campus - one for the College of Pharmacy and one for the Construction Management Program. Both visits went very well.

Academic Senate update - Adnan Dakkuri reported that the Academic Senate met the evening of November 22 and approved the recommendations of the Academic Program Review Council. He provided an overview of the recommendations for the 20 degree programs reviewed.

American Democracy Project – Rick Griffin reported that the steering committee for the American Democracy Project met yesterday, and he is very much impressed how the initiative is working and taking shape, allowing the opportunity to bring people together from different areas and disciplines across campus and throughout the community. He is expecting the positive growth to continue. Dave Eisler commented that this program is already receiving national recognition. Discussion included the work of the Pharmacy students in assisting middle school students with drug education, reading and math skills.

Student Government update – Maria Knirk reported an increase in membership and interest in membership with the Ferris Student Government. She reported that their meetings have been moved from the Presidents Room to the Centennial Dining Room in Rankin Center to accommodate a handicapped member. This member is assisting in the proposal for changes to Rankin Center. The final draft of the proposal should be ready for their meeting next Tuesday. They will continue their efforts on the shuttle bus service.

Minority Affairs update – Raymond Gant provided an update from the Minority Affairs Office. His discussion included an update on the current activities of the Hispanic Student Organization; efforts to centralize a collection of information for women and women's organizations on campus through a virtual website; and a new approach to collaborative work with charter schools utilizing students as the speakers/communicators (TOWERS – Teaching Others What Establishes Real Success). Students will be thoroughly trained and tested prior to beginning this venture.

Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Raymond Gant for addressing his class and reported that he was very well received by the students. Dan Burcham indicated he had the same experience with the students from his class.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham provided an update on enrollment (numbers are looking strong) and on Dawg Days. The next Dawg Days is for Allied Health, which will be held in the College of Pharmacy.

Clerical Technical Association update – Allen Sutherby reported that the CTA contract maintenance is scheduled for tomorrow. They will be discussing the loss of positions in the bargaining unit, and how positions are being changed during reorganizations.

Legislative update – Scott Hill-Kennedy provided an update on recent activities in Lansing. The December session is will continue through December 9 or 10.

President's update – Dave Eisler provided information on the following:

- Visit to 3 charter schools:
 - Bridge Academy – bilingual academy in Hamtramck, waiting list

- Allen Academy - renovated large Catholic church, impressive remodel for student facilities
- George Crockett Academy - markedly high performing school with remarkable focus
- Annual Ferris Foundation Gala - raised about \$60,000 - the two students who received foundation scholarships spoke to the crowd and were most impressive
- The Women's volleyball team are the GLIAC tournament champions
- The Men's basketball team is undefeated through 4 games
- Reminder of Dec. 9 Holiday Receptions - campus and community - Holiday Inn
- Construction Management Hall of Fame banquet - This was a successful event and brings distinguished constructors to campus.
- The process for funding minor capital repairs has begun again on campus. This cycle took requests from 2 years ago, included visitation of each site. Funding requires a 1/3 match from the division. Additional work is needed to improve instructional facilities
- Planning task forces - have received reports from co-chairs; presentations will be held December 16-17. Locations and times will be announced to campus and results placed on-line. Recommendations will be implemented in charge for Unit Action Planning process that begins in January.
- Cherry Commission - next Friday the Cherry Commission will release their report; a notice will be sent to campus with the link to the report once it is released
- Hockey this week is with Western Michigan University
- New Holiday Card online
- Reminder - Commencement is Dec. 18 - need student stories

Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to the Leadership Council for their good work.

At 9:15 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine