

Leadership Council

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the Leadership Council

Wednesday, December 3, 2003
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

Dave Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Richard Cochran, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Sandra Davison-Wilson, Raymond Gant, Rick Griffin, Scott Hill-Kennedy, Judy Issette, Randy Jancek, Michelle Johnston, Tom Oldfield, Karen Paine, Bill Papo, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Approval of 11/5/03 Discussion Notes. The minutes from 11/5/03 were presented and reviewed. The notes were approved as presented.

Issues in Lansing. Scott Hill-Kennedy provided information regarding the state budget discussions and activities in Lansing. Scott reported that discussions regarding an income tax rollback were more than likely causing additional speculation regarding the budget decisions. President Eisler provided additional discussion including the environment in Lansing, the estimated executive order for the University, and the University's budget forums and timetable.

Additional discussion included positive feedback received regarding the collective effort of letters to the legislators and the petition from students, and the collection and reporting of information gathered during the budget forums.

Employee Holiday Reception. President Eisler reported that the employee holiday reception at the Holiday Inn will continue again this year. It is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

Update on VPAA search. President Eisler reported that the VPAA search is progressing nicely. Bill Papo reported that the committee has narrowed the list down to eight candidates. Phone interviews will be held on the Dec. 14-15. President Eisler reported that the search committee will submit to him a list of 5 finalists that are to be brought in for interviews. In addition, President Eisler reported that two consultants are scheduled to visit campus to review the Academic Affairs division.

IT Matters - Richard Cochran distributed IT Matters. Discussion included the Banner Project implementation; module installations; review of third-party software products; training and professional development; new FSU website; "go-live" date for the PureMessage software; test results from the pilot group; distribution of Microsoft Software for employees; RFI's for internet service providers; new peer-to-peer applications that may cause challenges; and IT service call tracking.

Academic Senate. Bill Papo reported that the Academic Senate formed a committee on general education issues and has forwarded this report to the Interim VPAA. Three other committees will be reviewing this report as well.

Summer Sessions. Tom Oldfield reported that the University is looking at changing the summer sessions in order to increase enrollments. Sessions would include 4-week, 8-week, and 12-week sessions.

Ferris Professional Women. Michelle Johnston reported that the FPW will be assisting in the public librarians' project, "One County, One Book." FPW will supply the books to the libraries.

Honoring Senator Joanne Emmons. Scott Hill-Kennedy reported that Senator Joanne Emmons will be honored on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. (surprise event) at the Big Rapids high school auditorium. The format for the event is "This is Your Life." Light refreshments will be served after the event. All are encouraged to attend.

Other Events. Scott Hill-Kennedy reported that the annual Friends of Ferris Dinner Dance/Auction will be held this year on February 21, 2004 at the Holiday Inn. The Chamber of Commerce Gala is this Friday at the Holiday Inn. The Foundation Dinner held in November was very successful, with approx. \$75,000 raised. AFSCME employee groups at Michigan State University are organizing a rally tomorrow at noon in support of not cutting higher education funds.

Enrollment Update. Dan Burcham reported that applications are at an all-time high, and the numbers are also up for winter semester.

Projections for Summer Enrollment. Tom Oldfield reported that they are estimating an additional 10% increase in summer enrollment. Rick Duffett reported that last year the residence halls housed 111 students, and the estimated number of students that would be needed to be revenue neutral would be approximately 300 students. He also reported that this type of summer program is not unique. Tom Oldfield reported that the classroom requirements are being analyzed and there will be consolidation of buildings for summer.

Additional discussion included the start date of the fall semester, and the cost savings during shut-down over an extended break. Rick Duffett reported that they are looking at opening residence halls 4-5 days earlier this year for an easier transition for the students.

Additional discussion included health insurance issues, summer and general staffing issues, and coordination of efforts.

Birkam Health Center. Judy Issette reported that health insurance issues are being investigated and discussed. Dr. Newell has been called to active duty and Dr. Beard (retired) from Mecosta County Medical Center is filling in during his absence. Additional discussion included the flu strain in the west. Judy reported that test kits are available at the health center to confirm if the patient has the flu virus or another ailment. The health center is not seeing as many flu cases as they are experiencing out west. There are only three flu shots left, but they have been spoken for, so the flu shot season has ended at the Birkam Health Center.

Minority Affairs. Raymond Gant reported that the United Way Campaign is going well, but the students need help to get their portion going. A video game competition will be held tomorrow at 6 p.m. in Rankin Center to raise funds for United Way. Also, the Holiday Tree ceremony will not be performed this year. In addition, Raymond was awarded a grant from the Ferris Foundation to write a book recording the African American experience at Ferris from 1950 to 2000.

POLC. Randy Jancek reported that the Department of Public Safety is interviewing for a new public safety officer and a permanent assistant director.

Commencement. Dave Eisler reminded everyone that the December commencement ceremonies are one week from Saturday and encouraged all to attend.

Holiday Schedule. Tom Weaver reported that many workers have extended their gratitude about having the extra day off during the holidays.

Adjournment. Dave Eisler adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

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

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine