

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the  
Leadership Council  
Wednesday, January 11, 2006  
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Adnan Dakkuri, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Raymond Gant, Jonathan Gaskell, Don Green, Michael Harris, Karen Paine, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan and Tom Weaver.

Dan Burcham introduced the new President of FSU Student Government, Jon Gaskell. Jon will be presiding over his first meeting later this evening.

**Discussion Notes** – the Discussion Notes from the 11/30/05 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted.

**Administration and Finance update** – Rick Duffett reported that during semester break, an additional 10 classrooms were renovated. He extended his appreciation to all those who worked on the classroom project and on the Banner conversion during break.

**University Advancement and Marketing update** – Rick Duffett reported on the upcoming alumni events scheduled for Phoenix and Florida. The Ferris Foundation is doing very well, keeping very active, and is looking forward to a substantial potential gift.

In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Rick Duffett reported that the Banner training schedule is posted on the Banner website. He reported that there will be a parallel payroll system run with the Banner system payroll, and database checks will be utilized with the other modules of the Banner system. He reported that the student scheduling system will be more flexible than the system currently in place, and it will be effective for the Fall '06 semester (for scheduling beginning this summer).

**AFSCME update** – Tom Weaver extended his appreciation for the university's response in respecting the process and importance of the labor relations position. He extended his appreciation to Michael Harris for his assistance on issues and in the expedited decisions that have been made. He also extended his appreciation to Miles Postema and Louise Yowitz for their assistance. Regarding the assignment of work on the IRC renovation project, Tom recommended speaking with the two employees involved. He reported that the university's Local 1609 will be hosting the College and University Coordination

Committee (CUCC's) on February 10-11, 2006 here on campus. He noted that February will be a very busy month.

**Student Affairs update** – Dan Burcham extended his appreciation to Tom Weaver for the renovation of Rankin Center rooms 153 and 155. He reported that they are expecting to set a new record for winter enrollment (as of 6 a.m., 11,659 students were in the entire system; on-campus there were 9,837). He reported that yesterday he provided a report to the Academic Senate regarding the All Greek Task Force and extended his appreciation to those individuals who worked on the task force.

**FFA update** – Mike Ryan reported that Paul Sullivan has contacted several people on campus regarding the Infectious Diseases Task Force, and Mike is working with Miles Postema on the data security system agreement.

**Academic Affairs update** – Michael Harris reported that contract maintenance continues. He extended his appreciation to Tom Weaver and his crew for their work on the classroom renovations. The Open House for the Police Academy went very well, and the improvements are very nice. There is a meeting with Rockford Construction today regarding the IRC Renovation Project; they are expecting to be completed by Fall '07. Dave Eisler requested to be informed of when they will break ground on this project. Michael Harris reported that this year he has received 16 requests for sabbatical leaves, substantially more than previous years. The search for the Dean of the College of Technology continues; the Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences will be leaving soon, and the appointment of an Interim Dean will be announced in the next 24 to 48 hours. He reported that many faculty searches are in process; they had a successful Academic Senate meeting, and it is a great beginning to the new year.

**Student Government update** – Jon Gaskell reported that the Pancakes with the President event was a success, with over 550 students going through, and a lot of participation from the administration. Jon has his first meeting of the Student Government later this evening.

**Governmental Relations and General Counsel update** – Miles Postema extended his appreciation to Tom Weaver for a very productive meeting, and reported that another candidate for the labor relations position (Tim Quinn) will be on campus this Friday. He encouraged all to provide feedback on the candidates. He reported that his office is working diligently on the February 18 Friends of Ferris event, and they need help selling tickets and acquiring auction items. On the governmental relations position open search, he reported that they have received more than 80 resumes and applications. He extended his appreciation for his invitation to the AFSCME Christmas party and the Pancake with the President event. Tom Weaver noted that there has been a recommendation to look into having a larger event next year that includes all children (up to a certain age) of all Ferris employees. Rick Duffett extended his appreciation for the work and success of the MOARC Christmas Party.

**Academic Senate update** – Adnan Dakkuri reported that the recommendations regarding complete online programs at Ferris State University were sent to the UCC some time ago, and they decided to pass them back to the Academic Senate to form a task force. He reported that they will try to move this item through the process expeditiously.

**President's update** – Dave Eisler provided an update on the 5 planning task forces. He noted that the reports have been well-prepared and attendance good at the presentations. He reported that a student group has met with him to discuss students with disabilities, and a working group led by Louise Yowitz has been formed. Mike Ryan noted that there is a challenge due to the fact that the definition of disabilities changes from K-12 schools to higher education schools, and the university needs to decide to fill in the gap or to at least explain the difference to parents and students. Tom Weaver reported that they do have a coordinator in the physical plant who is working on the challenges of the handicapped. Charlie Carpenter and Mark Eichenberg are working on this project. Dave Eisler reported the university had its best fundraising December in the history of the university. He will begin listening to staff members this semester about values, and he will establish a process for listening to students. Regarding the state budget, even though the State of Michigan has reported a small budget surplus, we should not expect any changes from what we know at this time. We probably will not see a mid-year budget reduction, and there may be some change for building this summer.

**Minority Affairs update** – Raymond Gant reported on the many activities coming up for Martin Luther King week, with events starting this Sunday. He distributed the poster listing the events. He extended his appreciation to the President's Office for their sponsorship of some of the events.

At 8:50 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

**Submitted by:** Karen K. Paine