

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, March 1, 2006
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, Roxanne Cullen, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Raymond Gant, Jonathan Gaskell, Don Green, Judy Issette, Karen Paine, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes – the Discussion Notes from the 2/1/06 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Administration and Finance – Rick Duffett provided an update on the Banner project. He reported that the first payroll through Banner will be April 13. The financial aid package has now been implemented. Training sessions for faculty are underway. The target date to close this project is December 2006.

University Advancement and Marketing – Rick Duffett reported that this year's Summer University activities will emphasize advancement and what it represents for our University. The division will provide information for the campus for a better understanding of advancement. Rick Duffett noted that one of the challenges for the University's advancement area is in staffing and using staff time effectively. More focus needs to be placed on the one-on-one conversations. They are a more effective means for fund raising than events. Mike Ryan noted a trend for retirees to seek involvement in educational activities, such as training and educational trips. He suggested the use of existing and emeriti faculty to provide this type of entertainment/educational event to enable retirees to become connected to the University again

Student Affairs – Dan Burcham reported on his recent visit to Lansing and the meeting of the Chief Student Affairs Officers. He noted that there was substantial discussion of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, and for the first time, there was no discussion relative to student suicidal ideation. Dan reported that they are just finishing the new student receptions around the state, noting that there are quite a few alumni that help, and they are recognized during the recruitment presentation. Dan extended his appreciation for the Banner financial aid system coming live. He reported on a new collaborative venture between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs with students working on a National Health Week. Dan reported that as they are developing sessions for emerging student leaders, if

anyone has a student that they recognize in this category, please notify Cindy Horn in Student Leadership and Activities.

Birkam Health Center – Judy Issette reported that the students currently coming in are just a little sick, seeking to get well before spring break. The Health Center has had two excellent In-Services, one regarding influenza and the bird flu, and the other regarding social norming and dealing with substance abuse issues. Mike Ryan reported that a case of the bird flu transferred between two tigers has been identified.

Academic Affairs – Roxanne Cullen extended her regrets for Dr. Harris' absence. She reported on two positive accreditation reviews for the University, one for Pharmacy and one for Optometry. She noted that Academic Affairs has taken a more active role with the accreditation visits and related reports. Recent assessment activities include the planning of an assessment fair and the sharing of best practices in assessment. They have met with Student Affairs to work together more effectively on assessment.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel – Miles Postema extended his sincerest appreciation to all involved in making the 2006 Friends of Ferris Dinner/Auction the most successful yet. He reported that the event raised approximately \$31,000 (net) for Friends of Ferris, a record for this event. He noted that this event is perceived as one of the important social events of the year and encouraged everyone to pass along any ideas or suggestions for next year. Dave Eisler noted that a suit was filed yesterday against the PAC at Saginaw Valley. The issue was regarding payroll deductions being made for political action committees, which is not legal.

Ferris Faculty Association – Mike Ryan reported that the faculty look forward to securing stable leadership for the colleges of Allied Health Sciences and Technology. He noted that our University is enhanced by the length of service of administrators and that he is hopeful that the new leadership selected will be around for a long time. He reported on a post tenure review project including a peer mentoring group. He reported that a second collective bargaining negotiations meeting has been held with all parties still friendly. He noted that several sessions have been scheduled for faculty for Banner training and inquired as to the attendance. Rick Duffett reported that they are keeping track of who is attending, with the first session having 11 faculty in attendance and the second session having 30 faculty in attendance

AFSCME – Tom Weaver, in reference to the length of service of University employees, reported that while he would like to see people stay longer, his observation is that factors such as a change in retirement and benefit systems are encouraging employees to seek employment elsewhere. He extended his appreciation of the attention made to the inclement weather policy; however, he noted there still is not clarity in the definition of "essential." He reaffirmed an issue regarding supervisory responsibilities and noted that the biggest issue is disparity. He noted that as the new Labor Relations position is filled it should improve the contract maintenance process. He reported that a main issue in his

area that needs to be addressed is in the area of assuring appropriate just cause regarding the discipline of employees, and its effect on employee morale.

FSU Grand Rapids – Don Green indicated there was nothing new to report.

Student Government – Jonathan Gaskell reported that the Student Government has had some discussion regarding the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, but they have not yet taken a stance, and will not do so unless they determine it will be detrimental to the students. He noted there have been a number of discussions regarding inclement weather. After discussion, Jon noted that they have been doing a lot of research into the policies of other schools on inclement weather and will make a recommendation based on what they hear from students. In closing, Jon reported that his State of the Union address is this evening.

Clerical Technical Association – Allen Sutherby inquired as to the status of filling the Labor Relations position. Miles Postema reported that they do have an offer out to an individual as of now. Allen reported that contract maintenance will be coming up soon. They have received a second report on the 28-hour employees, which was not as favorable as they had hoped.

Minority Affairs – Raymond Gant reported that the TOWERS group went to Grand Rapids on Saturday and spoke to 30-35 students, and they are doing an excellent job. He reported that the Charter Schools office has provided financial assistance to offset some of the group's expenses, as they have appeared at some of the University's authorized Charter School academies. He commended the leadership efforts of the students for last evening's excellent Black History Month program in the Dome Room. The Virtual Women's Center is receiving many phone calls, and the site is attracting more attention as well. He reminded everyone of the Ferris Finest Talent Showcase on April 29, with auditions on March 23rd. He encouraged all to participate. He noted that this same weekend is the 40th Anniversary of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. They were formed in 1966 as the very first black organization on campus. He extended his appreciation to Michael Harris for establishing a new award this year, the Diversity Enhancement Award. He reported on his collaborative efforts with FSU-GR and Kendall in bringing students to their campuses. He extended his appreciation for the donation from the College of Technology that supported the costs of a bus to bring in students that are interested in technology. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Raymond reported that the students brought to campus are selected based upon several criteria: geographic location, those that have a genuine interest in our programs, and those that have a demonstrated interest to excel. Mike Ryan extended an offer to assist in these activities by providing K-12 contacts for Raymond for specific areas.

President's Update – Dave Eisler reported that a memo will be sent to faculty and staff which includes comments on fundraising efforts. He reported on the receipt of \$2.5 million for the annual fund through February; 19 new endowments have been created for the University; \$1.1 million has been received as major gifts; and \$1.9 million in planned

gifts. He noted the most success coming from the one-on-one meetings. He reported that the University will announce today that they received a \$1 million donation for the new Optometry building from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. He distributed copies of his testimony at last Friday's hearings before the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee and provided an overview of the information. He noted he will be addressing the House on March 29. He provided an update on recent athletic events and reported that this Friday's hockey game will be televised.

At 9:33 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine