

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the  
Leadership Council  
Wednesday, April 4, 2007  
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Rick Griffin, Michael Harris, Diana Hepler, Karen Paine, David Pilgrim, Mike Ryan, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

Dave Eisler welcomed Diana Hepler to the Leadership Council. Diana provided a brief introduction of herself and her responsibilities at the University.

**Discussion Notes** - the discussion notes from February 7, 2007 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

**Ferris Faculty Association update** - In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Dave Eisler provided an overview of the process for the appointment of the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. He noted that the appointment will be made by the end of this semester. His overview included the organization of the search committee, items to address with the committee, solicitation of input, and communication to campus. In additional response to Mike Ryan, Dave Eisler noted that his intent is to look for a Provost, by definition as the "first among equals." Dave Eisler extended his regrets for being unavailable to attend the last Executive Board meeting of the FFA, as he was addressing issues in Lansing relative to Capital Outlay, the issues relative to Proposition 2 and the King Chavez Parks initiative. Mike Ryan invited Dave Eisler to attend the next meeting of the Executive Board of the FFA on Monday, April 9, at 6 pm in SCI 136. He invited Dave Eisler to provide a short address to the general membership at their meeting from 7-9 pm in SCI 126. Dave extended an invitation for Mike Ryan and Jim Rumpf to visit with him prior to this meeting.

**AFSCME update** - Tom Weaver noted there are many issues going on right now; it is an election year, and the election results are not looking conclusive. He extended his concern regarding the impact on the campus community regarding the continued negative media attention. He requested increased communication regarding major issues on campus. He extended his concerns regarding health insurance in negotiations and housing on campus. In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver, Dave Eisler provided an overview of the issues relative to campus housing, what has been investigated and alternative plans for specific areas. Dave Eisler indicated that the next round of classroom renovations have

been approved for this summer. Tom encouraged the administration look into various ideas as to how AFSCME employees can save the University money, such as allowing for overtime work rather than subcontracting for projects. He extended his appreciation to Miles Postema, Steve Stratton and others for recognizing the needs during the snow storm, and to Miles for bringing another policy back to AFSCME in supporting the people that came in that day.

**University Advancement and Marketing and Administration and Finance update** – Rick Duffett extended his appreciation for the efforts of everyone to get the word out quickly regarding the campus closing. He extended his appreciation to Public Safety, the AFSCME employees, and Miles Postema for their efforts. Work has started on this year's annual Foundation Benefit, which will be at the Amway Grand Plaza, with a goal to net \$100,000 for scholarships and faculty grants. Dick Vitale will be the featured speakers. He extended his appreciation for the work being done on the campus in preparation for graduation. Regarding the unit action plans, his division has included a plan for the future of housing, and they are doing \$1.5 million in improvements this summer with no cuts to the plant.

**Academic Senate update** – Rick Griffin reported that the streamlining of the Senate has been very successful. He extended his appreciation to Doug Haneline and Leonard Johnson for their efforts. He indicated that next year their goals will include making the senate committees more accountable in terms of their reporting. He has received requests on what the committees are doing; those reports will be placed online. Regarding the Political Engagement Project, as campus coordinator, he extended his appreciation to Dr. Harris for his leadership on this area. Rick indicated that he will be presenting on the Political Engagement Project as part of the American Democracy Project conference in Philadelphia, June 4-7. He noted that the NY Times now has a website on the Political Engagement Project, and Ferris is included on this website. He was pleased with the preliminary data on the post tests and very impressed with the impact on students. The theme for fall semester is Technology in Democracy; he is working with Michael Terry to put on 1984. He indicated we have two more years of this project, and hopefully at the end of the three years we will have a much more engaged campus that will continue into the future.

Mike Ryan inquired if there is any way of having the NY Times aid in providing the Times to the students. Dan Burcham said it was a Student Government initiative that has been successful, but he does not know the specifics of the arrangement and why the papers are not available more often.

**Student Affairs update** – Dan Burcham provided an update on enrollment. He said we are running 872 more applications than the same time in 2006; we used to process 4,000 applications, and we are currently processing up toward 12,000. Another good indicator is that orientation sign-up is up 765 students. The Honors Program took in more students, and we are registering students more quickly. He distributed a report on work study students and noted that the numbers of work study students are not decreasing.

Scholarships are up slightly, transfer scholarships are getting a bit better. We are able to launch financial aid earlier. Joe Viviano has been elected President of the Student Government. In response to an inquiry regarding the Rube Goldberg machine, Dave Eisler noted that we have a good video on the machine that we will be using; the video is on the web; a campus celebration will be held; the students have been invited to appear on the Jimmy Kimmel show; and the machine has been submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records. Dave Eisler noted that the new minimum wage of \$7.15 will be effective July 1; however, he would like to go ahead and award work study at the higher level as of the beginning of the semester.

**Diversity Office update** – David Pilgrim provided an update on his meetings with a number of groups. He has approved a recommendation from the Diversity Planning Committee to place a statement on all FSU job applications regarding diversity. The Diversity Office will be heavily represented at this year's Summer University. Frank Hale, the "Dean of Diversity," will discuss the benefits of diversity on a campus community. David is looking for suggestions for concurrent sessions at Summer University. Tomorrow he is speaking at the University of Michigan regarding the Jim Crow Museum. He helped facilitate the Stanford Diversity Conference and noted there was good attendance. In reference to discussion regarding the fees for Williams Auditorium, David suggested the fee categories be changed to adults, employees and students – not just adults and students. It will send a message of inclusiveness to employees. David provided an update on the Diversity website and on efforts to build community relations regarding diversity. He encouraged all to attend the annual International Festival of Cultures on April 15. He provided an update on his conversations with campus, noting that his goal is to talk to all offices, units, divisions, etc. on campus, asking three questions: What is your charge? What are you doing to realize that charge? What can the diversity office do to help? In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, David indicated he had not heard of any issues regarding women wearing veils or safety issues regarding this topic, and regarding David's support, he has a student research assistant and clerical support from the President's Office staff.

**Clerical Technical update** – Allen Sutherby reported that he will answer to his e-board today. He expressed his concern in having sufficient input so he can answer questions. He expressed his offense to some of the comments regarding the life blood of the university recently made by faculty, and he doesn't agree with all the drama. Allen reported that for the CTA there are no new issues. He extended his appreciation to Rick Duffett and Miles Postema for their continuing assistance, and for inviting him on the trip to Lansing for the Legislative Luncheon.

**Public Safety update** – Diana Hepler reported that things are going well, crime is down. They had a tabletop exercise on emergency response similar to how Eastern Michigan handled their incident about a week ago. Their collective bargaining agreement expires this year. They are offering a self-defense course for women. In response to an inquiry

from David Pilgrim, Diana noted that there currently is not a similar self defense course available for both men and women. Rick Duffett extended his appreciation to our Public Safety employees in getting the word out quickly regarding the crime alert/ski mask incident recently. Mike Ryan noted the importance of secretaries/support staff in getting information out to campus.

**Academic Affairs update** – Michael Harris directed all individuals interested in their planning efforts to visit them on the web. Searches are being completed; the University is reaping the benefits of work done in the last few years on how we perform searches. The visit is approaching of the Higher Learning Commission regarding our off site campuses; three sites will be visited. The IRC project is coming close to completion, scheduled to be open this fall. He extended his appreciation to the physical plant and others for their assistance in bringing in the project on time, despite challenges. Promotion, tenure and merit have been completed. This Thursday there will be a Deans' department meeting regarding efforts toward a learning-centered environment. The Faculty Recognition Dinner will be held on April 19. Commencement is approaching – will be holding breakfasts, luncheons, etc. and will be inviting all staff to attend.

**Governmental Relations/General Counsel update** – Miles Postema reported that the Friends of Ferris event was very successful, raising about \$30,000. The Legislative Luncheon was also very successful, with 33 legislators and 15 other legislative offices represented. He indicated he was looking forward to the upcoming AFSCME bargaining. He provided an update on Labor Relations, noting that they are hoping to move Steve Stratton a little closer to campus. Staff attorney Ken Plas has started and has been able to do substantive work right away. They are currently holding off on hiring the Director of Affirmative Action to see how the office should be staffed. It is likely they will rename the position.

**President's update** – Dave Eisler provided an update on the unit action planning process. He will get a memo out to campus later this morning with the links to all the materials. He encouraged all to look at an area outside their own. He provided an update on strategic planning and his discussions with David McFarland. He noted that David McFarland will come back to campus on April 16-17 with two open sessions. He invited Mike Ryan and Jim Rumpf to attend. He reported on the two recently appointed Trustees, Sueann Walz, a community member for 30 years, and Patrick La Pine, who is the head of governmental relations for the credit unions across the state. The computer replacement project continues, and the new computers will not be issues with the Vista operating system – they will have XP. Summer University this year is devoted to diversity. The second day is devoted to wellness. Our flag football team made it to the semifinals. He provided an update on legislative issues, including our lead in the fight against community colleges offering bachelor degrees in nursing. He extended his appreciation for the efforts of all those included in this year's Legislative luncheon, and we will certainly do it again next year. Dave indicated that the University went up a tier in the U.S. News and World

Report. These are challenging times, with many opportunities. We will have a meeting on May 2, 2007.

At 10:48 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

**Submitted by:** Karen K. Paine