

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, May 4, 2005
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

In Attendance

Rob Bowers, Dan Burcham, Adnan Dakkuri, Sandy Davison, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Scott Hill-Kennedy, Judy Issette, Maria Knirk, Tom Oldfield, Karen Paine, Allen Sutherby, and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes - the Discussion Notes from the 3/9/05 meeting were reviewed. Additional information was provided on the subject of MUCH, but no changes were requested on the 3/9/05 discussion notes.

MUCH - Rick Duffett reported that MUCH is now a 501 3C Corp, with 12 institutions participating. The first three institutions that will enter into the contract are MSU, CMU and FSU. We are expecting that the FSU contract will be in place on July 1, 2005. MSU is going to be part of the coalition, not initially active, but the contract needs to be adjusted for each participant.

AFSCME update - Tom Weaver extended his congratulations to Scott Hill-Kennedy on his new position, and expressed concern about the challenge of finding his replacement. Tom provided information on his findings regarding MSU's health care coverage, including their savings on the increased use of generic drugs; emphasis on education of employees on their health care coverage; wellness programs; and frequent meetings of their committee.

CTA update - Allen Sutherby indicated they have received disappointing news regarding the rate increases for the MESSA insurance. The net increase would be 15.75%. They are looking at other benefit packages at this time.

Student Affairs update - Dan Burcham extended his appreciation for those that helped during Dawg Days. He noted there are increasing numbers of attendance at Dawg Days from all colleges. Regarding enrollment, the continuing students count is just about the same as this time last year. If the continuing students count holds, our new numbers will look excellent.

Academic Affairs update - Tom Oldfield reported that much work has been done with our career tech prep partners. They are actively strengthening partnerships with Lansing

Community College and building a relationship with Macomb Community College. They are going to the Higher Learning Commission to seek approval to offer programs that are entirely online. Summer enrollments are up.

Administration and Finance update – Rick Duffett provided information on the busy summer schedule for the Physical Plant, including the IRC renovation project; housing and dining projects; Quiznos opening in July; minor caps and deferred maintenance projects. He also provided an update on the schedule and progress of the Banner project. Tom Weaver extended his appreciation to Rick Duffett for the assistance to the Physical Plant, which has allowed them to develop and implement a backup plan for handling additional workloads and projects.

University Advancement and Marketing update – Rick Duffett provided information on the summer events, including the Presidential Bus Tour starting June 6 and the July Cherry Festival parade in Traverse City. He reported that the spring events were very successful and extended his appreciation for everyone's help. Dave Eisler provided additional information on this year's approach to the bus tour and related media coverage.

Academic Senate update – Adnan Dakkuri reported on the Senate elections and indicated that the new Executive Committee is in place. Dave Eisler commended Dr. Dakkuri on the efficiency of his meetings and indicated there is positive momentum for this group.

Birkam Health Center update – Judy Issette reported that many graduates are coming in for pre-employment physicals, and the Allied Health Sciences students are preparing for exams.

Student Government update – Maria Knirk provided information on the WILL conference at the end of March. There are at least 12 new members to Student Government this semester. Her report included an update on the SAI's (looking into electronic format); discount cards (money from discount card sales will be used to make minor improvements to Rankin Center); club sports allocations; response to parking recommendation; end of year event; engineering students and the Rube Goldberg award; and a notable increase in student interest to provide legislative support for University funding.

FSU Grand Rapids update – Sandy Davison extended an invitation to everyone to attend the annual Kendall Student Exhibits this week, which will be open through Saturday noon. She reported they are looking at an increased enrollment for both summer and fall.

POLC update – Rob Bowers reported that the Department of Public Safety has implemented a community policing coordinator. Officer Jim Wing is the contact person. In addition he reported that DPS is offering specialized presentations for any areas that request it. These presentations can include behavior deflection, crime awareness, and several other topics.

President's update – Dave Eisler reported that the Donor Dinner was very successful. He extended his appreciation of work done preparing the Student Recreation Center for this event. He reported that this year's Summer University will be focused around the Banner project; he will be sending out information on progress on the six overarching goals; he provided an update on the IRC building project, the PC hardware replacement project, the wireless project, and the messaging project. He encouraged anyone with ideas for task forces to please forward them.

The Funding of Michigan Universities ("Funding Formula") – Dave Eisler distributed a document and reviewed the information regarding the Funding of Michigan Universities, a document which was presented and distributed to the House Higher Ed Appropriations Subcommittee in Lansing in April. He encouraged the Council to share this information with others, and he reported that he is hearing strong support for this approach. He extended his appreciation for Senator Mike Goschka, as his dialogue regarding the funding for higher education was key in focusing attention to this matter. Tom Weaver reported that he has heard many positive remarks regarding the excellent presentation made by the President in Lansing, and indicated that the President's efforts are certainly being noticed.

Closing – As this was the last meeting of the Leadership Council for this academic year, Dave Eisler encouraged all to stay in touch throughout the summer. He provided information on the activities scheduled for Founder's Day, September 1. Founder's Day will now be recognized each year by the University, on September 1, in memory of the University's founder.

At 9:57 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine