

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, September 7, 2005
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Roxanne Cullen, Adnan Dakkuri, Sandy Davison-Wilson, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Maria Knirk, Karen Paine, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan, Allen Sutherby, and Tom Weaver.

Dave Eisler welcomed the members and provided a brief review of the calendar.

Administration and Finance - Rick Duffett reported that Quiznos has now opened and is very popular, doubling sales every day compared to the previous year. There were 195 student volunteers (honor students and athletes) who helped with residence hall move-in. The Banner Project continues to move ahead, with human resources systems scheduled to go live next. The wireless project is moving along and operational in zones 1-4. Zone 5 is scheduled to be completed within the next week. The PC replacement project has been successful and is also moving toward completion of first year goals.

University Advancement and Marketing - Rick Duffett reported that it has been a busy summer at U A & M with very successful events including the annual Alumni golf outing, the Traverse City event, Muskegon Air Show and Detroit Lions event. He reported that Kendall College has been added to the Millenium System for the tracking of donor information. The University is currently working on marketing strategies including the new messaging for Ferris State University. Public Safety has assigned Officer Wing as the community policing coordinator. Incidents of crime are down significantly from last year and continue to decline. Labor Day weekend events were very successful, including the football game and Beatles entertainment. Partnering with Meijers was an excellent idea. Rick extended his appreciation to the Alumni office, Athletics office and Ira Childress for their fine work on that event.

Student Affairs - Dan Burcham reported that fall enrollment is up 744 students overall, with 350 more students on campus. Major increases are shown in the colleges of Allied Health Sciences and Arts & Sciences. The College of Business numbers are much improved. He reviewed the overall makeup of the students (detailed reports can be obtained by contacting Dan). He noted an increase in attendance at gatherings, and was excited to report that the retention rate has moved from 67% to 70%. He extended his

appreciation to everyone for their collective efforts in obtaining these numbers. Dawg Days start in a couple of weeks. Hurricane relief fund activities are underway. FLEX (Ferris Leadership Experience) training will start soon. On Sept. 22-23, speaker Alan Berkowitz, Professor of Psychology, will be here a day and a half, with sessions around campus. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Dan Burcham reported that the enrollment number for transfer students is up slightly.

Faculty issues – Mike Ryan reported that even though it is good that classes are fuller, it does put stress on the systems, including an increased number of advisees. We need to review the number of advisees per faculty member, as there will be frustration with both faculty and students if that number is too large. He has noticed a pattern in the increase in demand for upper class courses; however, course offerings are not always abundant, and the students are pressured to get classes when they can to complete their degrees.

Ferris Faculty Association – Mike Ryan reported that he has received concerns regarding health care issues in the upcoming contract negotiations. He urged the University to begin the negotiations process early to assist in reducing anxiety. He reported that he has received requests from the faculty regarding the University's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, and that there is some classroom space available for Pharmacy students, should they determine that such type of assistance would be warranted.

Academic Affairs – Roxanne Cullen reported that the week of orientation for new faculty was a success and received a lot of positive response. Academic Affairs has noticed patterns of change in student enrollment and have instructed the deans to also make adjustments for low enrollment courses. Additional resources for enrollment growth are available from the incentive model. Discussion is continuing on the sharing of advising responsibilities. There was a good kickoff week and a great session of the Academic Senate, with good, honest and frank discussion.

AFSCME – Tom Weaver extended his appreciation in having Mike Ryan back. Tom extended his concern that there seems to be a disconnect between the President's Office and the campus community. He reported that he has not been able to bring any activities or changes made from the planning process back to his area due to communications issues. He expressed his concern about the continuation of good labor relations, and recognized the need to fill the Denise Barowicz position. He reported that although positions are not being filled, expectations are continuing to rise. Student workers are doing more, and he recommended an increase for those students that return to work at Ferris. He highlighted the need to continue communication; to look at alternative ideas for combining duties and providing alternate pay for various duties. He extended his appreciation to Rick Duffett for the funding to bring back retired personnel to assist in getting the dorm work done.

Clerical Technical Association - Allen Sutherby reported on his initial involvement with contract negotiations this summer. He extended his appreciation to Rick Duffett and Warren Hills for their assistance in getting through the important issues. He reported that

the health care issue has been fully resolved, and in a very professional and productive manner. He also reported that he had just received notification from the State Fire Marshall that three Clerical Technical Association employees are on stand-by for work in Louisiana relative to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, and that he may be called upon as well. Tom Weaver extended his appreciation in having a Vice President (Rick Duffett) at the negotiations table.

Kendall/FSU-Grand Rapids – Sandy Davison was pleased to announce that Kendall has reached a new enrollment record of over 1,000 students: 1,006 undergraduate students and 30 graduate students. They also have the highest ever freshman class. She reported that a component of that growth is the expansion of dual enrollment options, where high school seniors can take courses for college credit. They have filled the two floors of housing at the Commerce Building and are considering taking on an additional floor. On Sunday over the Labor Day weekend, they lost power due to downtown construction, and it was restored the morning of Labor Day. No damage to the facilities or equipment was sustained.

Student Government – Maria Knirk reported that Quiznos is a hit with the students. She has not received a single complaint, besides the line to get orders. She distributed discount cards being sold by the Student Government and provided information on various discounts they apply to. She provided an update on the student government committees, including campus awareness; the readership program; and the annual WILL conference (please send suggestions on female speakers). She reported they are creating a committee to work with AMU, the Associated Michigan Universities, and reported if anyone is seeking a part-time job, there is an administrative assistant position available. The work of the resident assistants (“RA’s”) regarding weekend programming has become visible in getting students to stay here during the weekend. The RA’s are receiving bonuses for having weekend programs, and it appears the University is starting to become an on-campus weekend campus. Mike Ryan recommended that any discussion regarding sexual aggression should include males, because the perception is that males are the problem, rather than a type of person or personality is the problem. Dan Burcham reported that the address by Mr. Berkowitz will be to all gender groups.

General Counsel – Miles Postema extended his appreciation for being a member of the Leadership Council. He reported that since the departure of Kelly Marek from his office, Deb Yost and Cindy Bauman will be assuming some of those duties. He extended his appreciation to those who attended Denise Barowicz’s reception and indicated there will be a search for her successor, using an aggressive timeline. He reported that he is excited about assuming a role on the Friends of Ferris Board of Directors, and he extended an invitation to anyone with questions about the transition to contact him directly. In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver, Miles indicated that there will be time scheduled for input by union representatives during the search.

Ferris Foundation – Rick Duffett reminded the Council of the annual Foundation Benefit in November. He indicated that this year's program will be somewhat different. The entertainment will be provided by entertainer and motivational speaker Roy Firestone. The Foundation's goal this year is to sell 400 tickets at \$200 each. If anyone needs information about the event, please contact Rick.

President's Report – Dave Eisler reported that it has been the smoothest beginning of the school year he has seen. The faculty orientation was a very good idea, and the change in when students were allowed to move in was also a good idea, causing less congestion. The Founders Day event was very successful; it will be held on the first Thursday in September. Next year we plan to make this an open house for the community as well. The combination of the Ferris Frenzy events with Founders Day worked well. During these remarks he announced new efforts and discussed the task forces that will be formed on transfer students, grants and external funding, technical support, student engagement and accreditation (our next accreditation being 2010-2011). If you would like to volunteer for a task force, please let him know. The University will move admission standards to a 17 on the ACT for fall 2006 and is investigating a more prescriptive plan of addressing exceptions. The State of Michigan still does not have a budget, but the administration has planned the University's budget based on the \$960,000 reduction from the State. He reported that he will share information as it becomes available. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Dave Eisler reported that detailed information is available regarding the insurance provided through the MUCH organization.

Meeting Start Times – Dave Eisler queried the members on their preferred start times of Leadership Council meetings. The meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. from this point forward.

Dave Eisler reported that the University continues to try to help the individuals in Greenville and has proposed certificates that will help displace employees get back to work. The Governor has asked us to help with Detroit as well, including those individuals transitioning to new careers. Mike Ryan offered his assistance in communicating with the unions in the Detroit area.

Tuition – Dave Eisler reported that we are moving from a tiered tuition system to a linear-based tuition, and it will take two more years to get to a full linear system. He reported on the open forum for students regarding tuition, and what started as a 12% tuition increase came down to an 8.9% increase after discussions with them. We went from the 4th most expensive university in the state to the 6th most expensive. Mike Ryan suggested that it would be helpful if the faculty could be provided with reports regarding the overall student profiles and how they have changed.

At 9:41 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine