

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the  
Leadership Council  
Wednesday, September 29, 2004  
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

In Attendance

Rob Bower, Dan Burcham, Adnan Dakkuri, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Raymond Gant, Scott Hill-Kennedy, Tom Oldfield, Allen Sutherby, Amanda Umlandt and Tom Weaver.

**Special Presentation** - Dave Eisler introduced and welcomed guests Karen GreenBay and Eunice Merwin, who presented information regarding and encouragement to participate in Accessibility Awareness Day on October 28. The purpose of Accessibility Awareness Day is to provide a better understanding of what our disabled students go through on a regular basis. Participants will experience simulated activities across campus to gain a different perspective.

**Discussion notes** - The discussion notes from 9/1/04 were reviewed.

**Student Government** - Amanda Umlandt reported that FSU-SG is focusing on some issues, including:

- SG had a goal setting session with a focus on recruitment of new members.
- There is an interest in making Rankin Center more student friendly.
- They are reviewing the allocation process to provide immediate response on issues.
- They are considering an opportunity of free New York Times readership for campus.
- A trial bus service will start Oct. 18 through the end of the semester to determine student usage; \$.50 per ride, using a 30-minute route to/from Lot 28.

**AFSCME** - Tom Weaver provided discussion regarding AFSCME issues; including:

- Requested process by which new organizations may be added for payroll deduction
- Pleased that campus unions are communicating and showing solidarity; all understand that the difficult cost issue of health insurance is a national problem and would like to know what the University is doing to reduce costs.
- University's attraction and retention of employees remains a critical issue.

- Requested information on when administrative pay raise will be announced and how that will be funded.
- Requested an update on MPSERS funding.
- Suggested that we can attract students by keeping our buildings in good shape

**Minority Affairs update** – Raymond Gant mentioned that he is gathering information to develop a list of reasons (such as, Dawg Days, TIP program, summer camps) why students choose Ferris over other universities and requested that suggestions be sent to him.

**Clerical Technical Association update** – Allen Sutherby reported that there are no new issues with CT's. The key issue is insurance.

**POLC update** – Rob Bowers stated that they would really appreciate a fast turn around on the paperwork for replacement of two positions due to retirements; the overtime is tiring.

Many joined in thanking Campus Police for their assistance at recent events.

**Academic Senate update** – Adnan Dakkuri reported that Budget Director Sally DePew has been invited to make an Oct. 5 presentation to the Senate regarding the budget so that faculty will better understand how state funding, as a portion of the university budget, has decreased compared to 5 years ago.

**VP Duffett, A&F/UA&M** – UA&M is busy reorganizing to streamline operations in fundraising and marketing based on the recent consultant report. A&F is spending a significant amount of time on master planning. They are also researching participation in the Michigan University Coalition on Health to reduce health care and prescription drug costs.

**AVP Oldfield, Academic Affairs** – The American Democracy Project, with the intent to embed citizenship and service learning activities into our everyday life, is going well. He encouraged Council members to attend upcoming lectures.

**VP Burcham, Student Affairs** – The FSU United Way campaign has begun. He encouraged Council members to be involved.

**VP Hill-Kennedy, Government Relations & General Counsel** – Provided an update on MPSERS including the information that the Citizens Research Council, a non-partisan group, produced a report that supports the position we espouse regarding MPSERS costs. He is leading a group who are working with the state administration to partner and reach a joint solution, asking them to consider how they are charging us and to look for financial relief.

**President's update** – Dave Eisler provided an update to the Leadership Council. His discussion included:

- He is spending a lot of time on the Lt. Gov. Cherry Commission. There is an interest in ways to increase the number of students who go to college.
- He will be sending information to campus soon regarding the comments received at the planning sessions – Summer University and Start of School Convocation.
- The master plan will be presented to campus for feedback and input. There will be a master plan meeting with this group.
- The American Democracy Project is important and can bring positive change to the university.

**Adjournment** - at 9:35 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner