

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, October 4, 2006
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

In Attendance

Rob Bowers, Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Don Green, Rick Griffin, Michael Harris, Judy Issette, Karen Paine, Miles Postema, Libby Schmidt, Mike Ryan, Allen Sutherby and Tom Weaver.

The members introduced themselves. Judy Issette noted that she has been employed at the University for 28 years and has been a member of the Leadership Council since its inception. Her last meeting will be today. As of November 1, Melissa Sprague will be the representative from the Nurses Association.

AFSCME update - In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver, Dave Eisler reported that the classroom renovation project will be placed on hold for the fall. He noted he is hopeful we will be able to continue in May or June of this summer, depending on the availability of funds. In response to an inquiry from Tom Weaver, Dave Eisler indicated he will get back with Tom on the request for the union leaders to meet with the President.

FFA update - Mike Ryan reported that it has been an interesting year, and a new contract has been ratified. He extended his concerns regarding the state of mind of the faculty members and concerns regarding the negotiations process. He noted there are several unresolved issues and many faculty members are still calling for actions to be taken. Dave Eisler responded that he was aware of the issues; that there were surprises on both sides during negotiations, and he is looking forward to having a different approach for next time, with both sides making changes for an improved process. Mike Ryan indicated he would provide Dave Eisler with the negotiations transcripts.

Tom Weaver commented that negotiating is an ongoing process. He inquired if there was a new process for work orders. He expressed his concerns regarding adequate and timely information and responses to concerns; the removal of student workers in the physical plant area; the recent increase in paperwork; the supervision of energy savings measures; the lack of response regarding a medical committee regarding health care coverage; condition of the campus apartments; and the effect of the increase in minimum wage on the workers and campus. Dave Eisler offered to set a time to speak with Tom Weaver on these issues.

Mike Ryan reported that the FFA is recommending a vote of NO on Proposal 2 and recommending a vote of YES on the K-16 proposal.

Clerical Technical update – Allen Sutherby noted there was nothing to report for the CTA.

POLC update – Rob Bowers indicated he will wait on the response to meeting with union representatives.

Administration and Finance update – Rick Duffett extended his appreciation for the good work of the physical plant and the assistance of Academic Affairs in completing the summer classroom projects. He noted that all aspects of the Banner system are up and running; however there is a lot of work to be done yet.

University Advancement and Marketing update – Rick Duffett provided a review of the activities at UA & M, including the bus tour, upcoming athletic events, the two Hall of Fame dinners, and the Ferris Foundation Benefit in Grand Rapids with James Earl Jones. He noted that this year's goal of the benefit is to reach \$100,000 and encouraged all to continue with ticket sales. Rick Duffett provided additional detail on development activities and the areas that need to be focused on for improvement.

Student Government update – Libby Schmidt reported on her appreciation for the strength and diversity of the general assembly. She reported that at the most recent meeting of the Association of Michigan Universities, two FSU Student Government representatives were appointed as commissioners. She provided an update on the activities of the Student Government, including recruitment, research, their efforts regarding the creation of a television network instead of a PowerPoint on the Ferris stations; special events and partnerships, and noted their new textbook website, textbookunion.com. President Eisler extended his appreciation for Libby's attendance at the Academic Senate meeting.

Academic Senate update – Rick Griffin reported on the success of the process streamlining, especially regarding curricular review and development. He extended his appreciation of the work of Doug Haneline, Bill Papo and Adnan Dakkuri. He reported that a project is currently in place to have all past meeting records of the Academic Senate available online.

Birkam Health Center update – Judy Issette provided an update on the Birkam Health Center's changes in medical staff. She noted that this semester is one of the busiest ever, with a challenging season of viral infections; the Health Center is now offering the HPV vaccines; and they have not received the flu vaccines yet, but they will announce the dates of the flu clinic for all FSU employees soon, probably at the beginning of November. She

indicated the negotiations will be starting soon (Oct. 16 and 25) for the FSU/Nurses Union collective bargaining agreement.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham extended his appreciation to Allen Sutherby for his flexibility and assistance with the applications process. He noted that Dawg Days is going well; applications are coming in quite heavy right now; and our counselors are doing a great job. They are working diligently on the analysis of the data, including failure to enroll analysis.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel update – Miles Postema encouraged those that have not yet met the new Director of Labor Relations, Steve Stratton, to make an opportunity to visit with him. The searches continue for the Director of Affirmative Action and Assistant General Counsel positions; planning for the Friends of Ferris event on Feb. 17 will begin soon; and, they are working on having another legislative luncheon, but timing has been an issue. He noted that a candidate has not yet been identified for the Governmental Relations position; however, they will continue the search after the elections.

FSU – Grand Rapids update – Don Green extended his appreciation to Allen Sutherby and Rick Duffett for their assistance in the replacement of the IT and telephone systems in Grand Rapids. He noted that this evening is the beginning of a speaker series, where they will have five speakers coming in this year on digital animation and video games. Tonight's speaker is Christopher Vuchetich from the Harry Potter series, who is also one of the lead developers for video games. He will address the work life of what an animator does.

Academic Affairs update – Michael Harris provided an update on the success of the academic affairs processes regarding hours for graduation and programs. He expressed his appreciation for the quality faculty members that have been hired; orientation was successful, and they will continue this throughout the year. The work on the IRC continues, with the scheduled opening to be fall of 2007. He extended his appreciation to those in Academic Affairs and the Physical Plant for their work in accommodating the movement of some programs. He noted the completion of another round of the computer replacement project and extended his appreciation to Tom Weaver for his assistance in the completion of the project in the labs in the Arts & Sciences area. He noted the efforts on building a center for grants and sponsored projects; efforts to increase transfer students with our work with community colleges; activities in getting students ready to register to vote; and efforts to provide opportunities for displaced workers in Greenville. Tom Weaver extended his appreciation of the efforts of Matt Klein and Kevin Miller in addressing the issues in the Arts & Sciences lab.

President's update – Dave Eisler noted that the IRC groundbreaking will be next week Friday. Work is being done to put the new FFA contract into place, and these changes are being processed as rapidly as is possible in human resources. New student wages are in place now. He provided an overview of issues relative to enrollment, student credit hours,

and future finances for the University. Additional discussion included the development of a dashboard report on enrollment; our approach to state funding activities; and student work study.

At 10:10 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine