

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, November 1, 2006
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

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

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Don Green, Rick Griffin, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Michael Harris, Libby Schmidt, Karen Paine, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan, Melissa Sprague, and Allen Sutherby.

Discussion Notes – the Discussion Notes from the 10/4/06 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted. President Eisler welcomed Melissa Sprague as the new representative from the Nurses Association.

University Advancement and Marketing update – Rick Duffett provided an update on the Ferris Foundation benefit gala. He noted that ticket sales were at 451 as of today, and the book authored by James Earl Jones, “Voices and Silences,” will be sold at the event. He reported on his attendance at the NCAA Women of the Year banquet last Saturday evening, where Ferris was represented by Jennifer Irwin (track athlete), who was included in the top 9 women of the evening.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham reported that United Way is halfway through their campaign and doing well, especially the student campaign. He noted that the Enrollment Task Force has met and encouraged any suggestions be directed to Pat Klarecki. He provided an update on applications and noted that Dawg Days have been well attended. Additional discussion included challenges in financial aid awards, admissions standards, waiting lists, and promotion of majors.

Student Government update – Libby Schmidt provided an update on the activities of the Student Government. She reported on the upcoming meeting of the Association of Michigan Universities on November 17-19 at Grand Valley. She noted that the Student Government has appointed 19 new members this semester alone and reported on the election education fair, the debate on Proposal 5, project BRAD (Be Responsible About Drinking), and the committees’ review of the Greek Life Task Force’s report and recommendations. She noted their discussion with dining services about meal plans and changes in the future; the research regarding student activity fees and the possibility of providing free legal advice to students; and research on providing online syllabi and online results of SAI’s (Student Assessment of Instruction) online.

Academic Senate update – Rick Griffin reported that the Senate is moving along well and the committees are doing a great job. He noted that work continues on putting the Senate materials online. He reported on activities of the political engagement project, including the election education fair; the debate of the 5 proposals; and the opening of Westview dining and their offering of free pizza and discussion on the election results. He noted that there is a Stanford report on the Political Engagement Project; Fred Wyman is preparing a DVD on the project; and the College of Pharmacy is also sponsoring a program on election night. He noted that Richard Scher of the University of Florida, a leading analyst of election outcomes in America, will be here on November 16 to do a presentation about the election outcomes on an international level. The presentation will be held in BUS 111 at 7 p.m. He encouraged all to attend.

Ferris Faculty Association update – Mike Ryan noted that as promised, he does have a copy of the transcript from the last meeting before the FFA contract expired. He will work with Miles Postema on this material. Dave Eisler noted that any responses will be from the Board of Trustees. Mike Ryan noted that since the last meeting, the FFA Executive Board has established a task force on strategic engagement, with the general focus on shared governance, the percentage of involvement and its perception. He reported that currently Proposal 5 looks to be about 50/50 and is questionable whether it will pass. He inquired as to when he would see a draft hard copy of the new FFA contract; Miles Postema reported that it should be relatively soon. Dave Eisler noted that percentage raises are in paychecks now; the health care funding is in place and the plans will go into effect on Nov. 1. Mike Ryan noted they have purchased 50 tickets for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Ohio State hockey game; they had the first indication that the Avian Influenza has increased in Southern China.

Clerical Technical Association update – Allen Sutherby noted that they have been reviewing the data regarding part-time employees and extended his appreciation for the improvements made in that area.

FSU-Grand Rapids update – Don Green reported on last week's Transfer Day for Grand Rapids Community College. He noted that it worked very well for Ferris and for Grand Valley.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel update – Miles Postema noted the tentatively-scheduled legislative luncheon on March 28 and encouraged all to participate. Mike Ryan noted that he found it helpful to break down information to tell legislators regarding how many students from their district are going to Ferris, and to find a personal connection with them. Miles noted that the Friends of Ferris is beginning to plan for their event in February, and the searches continue for the open positions in their division.

Nurses Association/Birkam Health Center update – Melissa Sprague noted that there has not been a date set for flu shots as of yet, but they are anticipating mid-November. They

do not anticipate any problems with quantity. She extended her appreciation to Mike Mckay and Kipp Saathoff in getting the Workers' Compensation Program going. She noted that the Nurses Association is currently in negotiations. Dan Burcham reported that the Health Information and Wellness Task Force should be working on how we can use community services for our employees.

Academic Affairs update – Michael Harris reported that as we are halfway through the semester, work is shifting toward the end of the semester. They are engaging the campus in the WebCT migration to Vista, and they are holding a competition for the naming of the project/software. He is working closely on the migration of WebCT so that it has faculty capacity during the transition. He noted they have strengthened the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and have had good outcomes this semester, and they have resumed contract maintenance with the Ferris Faculty Association, with the first meeting held a week ago.

President's update – Dave Eisler reported on the lowering of the flags for a brother of a female student at Ferris. He reported on the formation of the three task forces, and the very positive report from the Higher Learning Commission about online learning efforts at Ferris. He noted that as a part of the new FFA contract, the last class on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving will begin at 11 a.m., but all offices will be open on Wednesday. He noted the IRC renovation continues, and he will be searching for an assistant on diversity. He provided an update on the Foundation Gala, its success and its funding for scholarships. Dave Eisler reported on the investiture of President Tom Haas at GVSU, and noted that Michael Klobucher is a finalist for the 2006 Draddy Trophy.

Allen Sutherby noted there was a pandemic training exercise last week, and our health center was not considered for participation. He noted there will be security issues, and they should be included in these exercises and planning in the future.

At 9:35 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine