

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Adnan Dakkuri, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Don Green, Michael Harris, Judith Issette, Maria Knirk, Karen Paine, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan, Allen Sutherby, and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes - the Discussion Notes from the 10/19/05 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted.

AFSCME Update - Tom Weaver reported that while the schedule for the classroom renovations is aggressive, the AFSCME employees have been able to manage it, keeping most of the work here on campus. He extended his appreciation for attending a National Workforce Conference in San Antonio and indicated there were numerous positive remarks about the University.

Administration & Finance Update - Rick Duffett reported that the Banner Project is moving along; the Finance module is live, Human Resource module will not go live until March; but they are still on target for full implementation by December 2006. He distributed a copy of the Ferris Foundation 2005 Annual Report.

University Advancement & Marketing Update - Rick Duffett reported that they are busy with activities, with alumni events coming up in Chicago, Denver, Arizona and Florida, all during the months of December and January. Tom Weaver extended his concern regarding the appropriate engagement of alumni, administration and unions, and in keeping a live connection between them and with the Board of Trustees.

Birkam Health Center Update - Judy Issette reported that during her absence at the last meeting, she was attending a 3-day Mid-American College Health Association Conference in Lexington, KY. The fall 2005 statistics indicate the Health Center saw 250 more students this year than the same time last year. They feel the reason for this may relate to parents encouraging the students to go to the health center. This year's flu clinic was successful; they have only 20 doses left out of 500 doses. They are working on a nationwide project with the CDC in tracking flu-type symptoms, but have not had one flu case yet this year at the Health Center. During Christmas break, the Red Cross will be providing CPR and AED training.

Student Affairs Update - Dan Burcham reported that this year's United Way Campaign is within \$508 of its goal. There are big sign-ups for Dawg Days. He noted the positive media coverage on the Veterans Scholarship Program and reported that we are receiving letters from outside of Michigan already. He is working with the Academic Senate on the Greek Life Task Force and expects to have a report out by the end of this semester.

AFSCME Holiday Party - Tom Weaver extended an invitation to the Council to attend this event on December 19th at Westview Dining. He recommended arriving at around 2:45 p.m. All proceeds will go to the AFSCME union.

AIDS Quilt Display - Judy Issette reminded the Council that the AIDS Quilt is on display at the Dome Room at Rankin Center. It will be there yet today and tomorrow, and she encouraged everyone to stop by.

FFA Update - Mike Ryan reported that there had been no further discussion regarding the Infectious Disease Task Force or in addressing of the bird flu. He recommended that the Crisis Management Team be correlated with the Infectious Disease Task Force to get something formulated. Judy Issette indicated the Health Center was doing some similar type of work and offered their assistance in this project. Miles Postema reported that he received information on a free teleconference scheduled in March on pandemics. He will forward the information to those interested in the Council. Allen Sutherby reported on a mock disaster that was enacted by all-star football players from the area. Mike Ryan expressed his concern regarding an email announcement that was issued by the data security officer regarding utilization of the University's computer information database systems. After discussion, it was determined that Mike will meet with Miles Postema to review the issue. Mike Ryan suggested that the University develop a mentoring system for new administrators. Tom Weaver recommended an enhanced environment of discussion, providing appropriate procedures and policies for the unions.

Academic Senate Update - Adnan Dakkuri reported that the Senate met on November 15 in the evening to review the recommendations of the Academic Program Review Council. He reported that out of 17 programs, 16 programs received a positive review and 1 was recommended for discontinuation. There will be 1 faculty member affected. He extended his appreciation to Dan Burcham for positively responding to the request for a Greek Life Task Force. Dave Eisler extended his appreciation to Adnan for inviting people to present information at Academic Senate meetings.

CTA Update - Allen Sutherby reported that the contract has gone out to print. He extended his appreciation to Miles Postema for including him on the interview process for the Director of Labor Relations search.

Academic Affairs Update - Michael Harris reported that the University had a visit by the accrediting body for the MI College of Optometry that was successful, as were the accreditations for Pharmacy and Construction Management. The accreditation team will

be here to review the Dental Hygiene Program this week. He reported that a lot of work is being done on curriculum matters; the searches are continuing for faculty and administration; the search for the College of Technology Dean is moving ahead well; the first phase of classroom renovations is completed and on the web; the President has authorized 10 more classrooms; and their work with the FFA has been both constructive and positive.

IRC Renovation Project - Mike Ryan inquired how long the IRC building would be out of use during the renovation. Dave Eisler reported that if the funding goes through, it will be out of service for all of next year, for 3 semesters. He noted that we are approved for construction but have not received any funds from the state. Mike Ryan provided an example of having to restructure a student's schedule because of class locations. President Eisler and Michael Harris encouraged him to bring those issues forward, as Academic Affairs has been putting great effort into this area.

Accrediting Body Authorization to offer Online Courses - Mike Ryan inquired about a document being distributed regarding accreditation and distance learning. Michael Harris reported that as the University wishes to put its current programs online (not new programs), the accrediting body needs to provide permission for the University to do so. Dave Eisler reported that this movement came from the Higher Learning Commission several years ago, in that the University needs to demonstrate that they have a successful approach to offering their current program(s) online.

Classroom Utilization - Adnan Dakkuri suggested that a reference office or other entity be identified that can be in charge of maintenance of classrooms all over campus. He noted that as we have more cross-utilization of rooms, it would be helpful to have a central person/place of contact.

FSU – Grand Rapids Update - Don Green extended his appreciation to everyone that attended the open house in Grand Rapids for local high school students and non-traditional students. The event was a success with over 180 attendees. He noted that the majority of prospective students were interested in Big Rapids programs, and last year FSU-GR referred over 500 inquiries to specific people here in Big Rapids, for programs in Big Rapids.

Student Government Update - Maria Knirk extended her appreciation to those who met with Michelle Stearns as she successfully secured funding for the popular Readership Program for next semester. They are not certain how many papers will be offered, but they are looking at better places to put them. Abby Lund is doing a great job on the W.I.L.L. Conference. The Pancakes with the President breakfast is scheduled for Dec. 13 from 11 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. in Westview Dining. All are welcome to attend. Regarding the discount cards, they have started raising money and have covered all the expenses of having the cards made. They are supporting the proposal to offer online degrees for current programs. Last week they met with Director Bledsoe regarding parking. At the next

meeting of the Leadership Council she will introduce the new Student Government President. His inauguration is next Tuesday. Dan Burcham noted that Abby Lund is featured in the Ferris Foundation 2005 Annual Report.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel Update – Miles Postema extended his appreciation to Allen Sutherby, Mike Ryan and Tom Weaver for participating in the open forums for the Director of Labor Relations search. He noted he was very interested in their comments about the candidates and appreciated their positive remarks and presentation regarding the University. The search for the Governmental Relations position is underway. The Friends of Ferris planning is underway for the February 18 event. The theme is the Great Outdoors. Please submit ideas or items for the auction and silent auction. Grunst Brothers is interested in partnering with them for a wine tasting event in the fall.

President's Update – Dave Eisler reported that he is concluding his faculty meetings and will continue with staff meetings in January and students in March. He noted that even as Michigan has one of the worst economic outlooks, from his attendance at the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, that these issues are throughout the Midwest, and it may take regional development efforts in how we respond to workforce development. He expressed his concerns regarding the rise in utility costs. Even though gasoline prices are down, natural gas is not. He reported that in November of two years ago, we paid \$.59 ccf; 1 year ago, \$.84 ccf; and currently, \$1.30 ccf. His next memo to campus will be talking about utility usage and seeking advice. Even if the University computes that we use 3% less natural gas than last year, we could still show an increase of \$1.9 million in utility costs. In response to an inquiry from Mike Ryan, Dave Eisler reported that there has been an energy analysis done. Various ideas that have been presented include a year-long university schedule of classes and the balancing of the different weekday schedules. He noted that the Task Force Reports will be presented on the 15th and 16th of December. The 13th of December is the annual employee reception at the Holiday Inn, beginning at 1:30 p.m., but please feel free to stop by whenever it is convenient for you. The Community Reception is that evening, followed by the pancake breakfast.

Next Meeting of the Leadership Council - After discussion, it was determined that the next meeting of the Leadership Council will be rescheduled from January 4, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. to **January 11, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in CSS 302.**

Recognition of Faculty/Staff Efforts – This past week, Dave Eisler has been meeting with students in the residence halls. From these sessions it is clear that students do respect and recognize the fact that the faculty and staff know their names, they extend extra services to them, and take special interest in them. What we do to support our students is very important, and although they may not say it, they do know it.

At 9:40 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Paine