

Approved January 10, 2007

Discussion Notes of a Meeting of the
Leadership Council
Wednesday, December 6, 2006
Timme Center for Student Services

Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Rick Duffett, Dave Eisler, Michael Harris, Tim Jacobs, Libby Schmidt, Miles Postema, Mike Ryan, Melissa Sprague, Allen Sutherby, and Tom Weaver.

Discussion Notes – the Discussion Notes from the 11/10/06 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted. Introductions were made around the table.

Statement – President Eisler clarified statements on the mediator and sidebar discussions during faculty negotiations this summer.

Nurses Association/Birkam Health Center update – Melissa Sprague mentioned that there was a lower turnout for the flu clinic than expected and there are several doses left; the charge is \$20 per student. She stated that the Health Center is going through a software upgrade which will assist in tracking medical conditions; a nurse position is posted; and with the Counseling Center, they are supporting a family for Christmas through Starburst.

Ferris Foundation Gala – Rick Duffett distributed a Foundation Report and thanked all those on the Council who assisted and supported the 2006 Ferris Foundation Benefit. He noted that they are looking for suggestions for a 2007 speaker with a recognizable name.

Student Government update – Libby Schmidt provided an update on the activities of the Student Government. This semester's last meeting was held yesterday; much has been done for recruitment this year. 'Pancakes with the President' is scheduled in Westview Dining for 11:00pm on Tuesday, December 12; last spring over 800 students attended and was a huge success. She reported on the Association of Michigan Universities (AMU) meeting last month at Grand Valley, where AMU dissolved. The Ferris Student Government will draft a new constitution and work toward bringing all Student Government presidents together to regroup.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham reported that Spring 2007 on-campus enrollment numbers look good and are equal to last year. Fall 2007 applications are currently running above those in 2005, which was a very good year. Dawg Days have been well attended.

The College of Technology day was particularly well accepted with several faculty members in attendance to talk directly to students and parents. He also mentioned the upcoming leadership training initiatives for Greek organizations and RSOs.

Academic Affairs update – Michael Harris reported that Ferris State University has been contacted by the Higher Learning Commission. They have identified 14 institutions that have off-campus sites and are five years from accreditation. The institutions will be asked to provide a report, then will receive a campus visit in the spring. Ferris has been chosen as one of the institutions; we have very few details for report inclusion and a short timeline, but intend to comply with the request. Mike Ryan mentioned the Spelling Commission report and President Eisler spoke of the National Conference of State Legislators' document. In both cases, there is a push for national standards for higher education. There was a brief discussion of the pro and con arguments. VP Harris then provided an update on recent and upcoming program accreditations; announced a January 26 campus presentation by John Tagg on the "Learning Centered Paradigm"; and invited members to the Commencement breakfast and lunch for faculty and staff provided by Academic Affairs.

Ferris Faculty Association update – Mike Ryan thanked President Eisler for the clarifying statement to start the meeting. He also thanked Miles Postema for the clean draft of the FFA/FSU contract and will be meeting soon with him to review it – any changes are mostly grammatical. There are some minor adjustments to be made; i.e., a market adjustment piece that Warren Hills is working on and a Banner issue with paychecks that is being corrected. He mentioned that the Association has responded to Trustee Cook. He then talked about planning. Ferris needs to stress the international aspect of what we do and should do to provide as many experiences as possible for our students. For example, students in all programs should have the opportunity to experience other languages and cultures, then have a statement on their transcript affirming the understanding. Ferris should work with the legislature to show how this would be a win/win for the State, the students, the industries, and the University. VP Burcham indicated that the current system has the potential to track and report co-curricular activities.

AFSCME update – Tom Weaver mentioned that he has met with the new Labor Relations Director Steve Stratton and hopes to continue with monthly meetings. He asked for an update on the status of the minor cap projects. President Eisler responded that he and the vice presidents will personally visit the project areas this Friday and will determine the final list. He then stated that AFSCME is working on upgrades for an equipment repair position to "grow" some of our custodians. Tom requested a list of exempt and non-exempt employees to ensure that policies are followed with fairness and consistency across campus; Miles Postema offered to meet with Tom regarding this issue. Tom invited Council members, who were invited last year, to the AFSCME Christmas parties – Dec. 19th at noon in Rankin Center, the MOARC party on December 20th from 2-4pm in Rankin Center; and the kids/grandkids party at Granger on December 10th from 2-4pm. He stated that preparations for negotiations are underway. He hopes to start meeting in

July to be done before November 2007, and expects the big issues to be health and discipline. He is reviewing information regarding health care, prescriptions, and coalitions.

Clerical Technical Association update – Allen Sutherby expressed satisfaction that a couple of positions were gained recently for the Association.

POLC update – Tim Jacobs reported that 45-50 applicants were on campus last Saturday for testing to fill two vacant officer positions. They should be filled and the officer on maternity leave is expected back by February. He also stated that two criminal justice seniors, who are entering the master's program, have been promoted to adult part-time as part of the new Cadet Program. They will be taking reports and supervising student workers, relieving officers of some basic office duties.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel update – Miles Postema noted that two of the three Affirmative Action candidates chosen for campus interviews have withdrawn from the search. The position will be reposted with a deadline for mid-January.

President's update – Dave Eisler reported that a Capital Outlay bill is in the House today, it is unclear what the outcome of this will be. He also mentioned that the Governor's Michigan Business Tax proposal will probably not receive approval before the first of the year. This proposed replacement for the Small Business Tax (SBT) is important in that it replaces dollar for dollar the SBT. So far there is no discussion about an Executive Order to replace the shortfall. President Eisler reminded Council that two Board of Trustees members will be leaving the Board at the end of December; invited everyone to attend the Holiday Reception tomorrow at the Holiday Inn from 1:30-3:00pm and the task force presentations in the Founders Room from 9:00am-1:00pm on December 15th; and mentioned that student stories are needed for Commencement.

Next meeting: January 10, 2007
At 9:50 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Elaine R. Kamptner