

**President's Council  
Meeting Summary  
January 4, 2012  
9:00 a.m., CSS 301C**

**Attendance:**

Burcham, Davison-Wilson, Eisler, Erickson, Evans, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Scoby

**Action Item:**

- The summary from the December 16, 2011 PC meeting was approved for posting.

**Topic/Discussion Items:**

- Higher Learning Commission Report  
A working group of Provost Fritz Erickson, KCAD President Oliver Evans, Ferris Academic Senate President Doug Haneline and KCAD Faculty Senate President Cindy Todd will review suggestions regarding the relationship between Ferris and Kendall in the HLC Visiting Team Report. Forums for University input on the report have been set for Tuesday, January 10, 3:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Kendall and Tuesday, January 17, 3:00 p.m. in WCCC (topic for the SPARC meeting) at Ferris.
- Board of Trustees working session – January 19  
Council members considered topics to be shared with the Board of Trustees at the January 19<sup>th</sup> working session.
- IT Plan – Presentation and discussion by Gartner consultants  
VP Scoby introduced Amos Auringer and Steven King, Gartner Inc. consultants. They presented their company information, national higher education IT needs and strategies, and their work with Ferris through John Urbanick to review the IT Plan. Council members discussed the need for the plan to be:
  - the University's Plan for IT rather than the "IT Plan"
  - an outcomes-based approach (users must see benefits to them)
  - a balance of concerns and strategies
  - reflecting innovation
  - an acknowledgement that not everyone connects to IT from their office
  - a consideration of this in the context of how much we can affordThe idea of a future "shared service center" was mentioned as an option for training of all users. VP Scoby suggested that based on this input, the plan may be redrafted from a user perspective. VP Green suggested that Ferris First members have discussed the "service hot spots" topic and may be helpful in the rewrite. VP Davison-Wilson stated that Grand Rapids is engaged in a parallel plan process for off-campus; the University IT Plan should encompass all sites and would help to create an equal IT focus.
- Distinguished Staff/Team Committee  
President Eisler asked for suggestions to replace members of the Distinguished Staff/Team Committee who have completed their term of appointment. Council members agreed that the President will work with Provost Erickson for an Academic Affairs representative and VP Armstrong for UA&M.

- **Smoking Policy**  
VP Scoby distributed an updated draft of the Smoking Policy. With a few suggested revisions, the policy will be posted online for University community feedback.
- **University Center – renovation**  
VP Scoby initiated discussion on the University Center renovation scope, process and timeline. The next step will be providing the consultant’s report to the University community. VP Burcham will work with the president on this. A subgroup of Provost Erickson, VPs Scoby, Burcham and Pilgrim will begin considering initial programming, including tenants, costing and traffic needs, before a larger programming committee is formed.
- **Federal Building**  
VP Davison-Wilson provided an update on the Federal Building construction. The soft opening will be May 1<sup>st</sup> in connection with the student exhibition; the formal opening will be in September before ArtPrize. President Eisler continues to provide tours for foundations, potential individual donors and furniture executives.
- **25 Michigan / Pharmacy**  
Provost Erickson was pleased to report that students will begin classes on Monday in the new Pharmacy facility in Grand Rapids. The grand opening is scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **KCAD President Candidates**  
President Eisler reported that two KCAD President candidates are scheduled for on-campus interviews – January 23-24 and January 25-26. Candidate names will be released soon.
- **Health Insurance and Wellness Strategy/Costs**  
Guest: Sally DePew  
VP Scoby distributed documents regarding health insurance and wellness communication/timeline strategies. Council members discussed options for holding open sessions for the University community regarding the unsustainability of continued increases in health insurance premiums / the future of healthcare for Ferris. It was suggested there be multiple sessions on multiple days, including sessions in Grand Rapids. A panel format was suggested, inviting all health insurance carriers for Ferris employees to participate. Panelists would be provided objectives and the opportunity to share new products, potential future costing, etc. The sessions will be an occasion for employee engagement and discussion as the administration continues to provide transparency in budget/costing items. VP Scoby will bring a framework for the sessions to the Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The wellness piece will continue to move forward on its own timeline.
- **Controlling Costs**  
Guest: Sally DePew  
President Eisler initiated a conversation on how to make Ferris a sustainable institution for the future. How do we maintain or increase the quality of efforts to educate, innovate, and provide opportunity and access to our students, as well as be financially sustainable. Areas of concern, as pointed out in the open November 2011 Budget Forum, are student tuition, health insurance, and student loan debt. VP Burcham was asked to bring information and data to the January 18<sup>th</sup> Council on comparisons of student debt. President Eisler requested Council members share with him by January 16<sup>th</sup> their ideas to change the pattern of building budgets, costing, restraining costs, or other ways to make Ferris a sustainable institution as these areas of concern continue to increase.

- Other
  - VP Scoby provided an update on the Holiday Inn.
  - VP Pilgrim reminded that the divisional annual diversity reports are due. The Jim Crow Museum work continues and will be completed in 7-8 weeks. The grand opening will be April 26<sup>th</sup> with speakers, tours, etc.
  - VP Postema reminded of the Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> Friends of Ferris Dinner/Auction and March 15<sup>th</sup> Lansing Legislative Luncheon dates.
  - President Eisler reported on the Board of Trustees working session with a consultant in December.

**Next meeting dates:**

Wednesday, January 18, 9am-noon, CSS 310C (regular meeting)

Wednesday, February 1, 9am-noon, CSS 310C (regular meeting)

Meeting adjourned 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner