

**President's Council  
Meeting Summary  
February 11, 2009  
8:30 a.m., CSS 301C**

**Attendance:** Burcham, Christner, Davison-Wilson, Eisler, Evans, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Willey

**Presentation:** Minor Caps Prioritized List  
Guests: Mark Eichenberg and Matt Stanke  
Council members reviewed the Minor Capital Project prioritized list and discussed the proposed projects seen during the January 14 walk-around tour. Funding for these projects will be 75% from central and 25% from division.

**Action Item:** Summaries from the January 9 and January 28, 2009 PC meetings were approved for posting.

**Good News:** Council members announced good news items from their division/area.

**Discussion Items:**

- Emergency Classroom Communications (VoIP)  
Guest: John Urbanick  
CTO Urbanick provided a summary of the Classroom Voice-over-IP (VoIP) Project, which would serve as an emergency communication tool for academic classrooms. Three phases are proposed, beginning with 176 classrooms in six buildings by August 2009, 83 classrooms completed by June 2010, and the final 63 classrooms completed by June 2011. There was discussion regarding the need for UPS (backup system). Consideration of whether UPS power backup systems are needed for these phones was referred The Emergency Preparedness Team will further discuss the UPS issue. The first phase of this project was approved. Dan Burcham will engage the deans in discussion of this project. VC Davison will consider a similar project for Kendall College of Art and Design.
- Policies Web Site  
VP Postema presented a draft of what a University Policies portal could offer. Council members agreed that this would be a useful tool. Definition differences between policy, letter, procedures and guideline need to be determined and become more uniform. An additional section should be added to propose new policies and ask for comments.
- Part-Time Clerical Hours – 4th Quarter 2008 Report  
VP Christner distributed the 4th Quarter 2008 report of part-time clerical hours for review.
- Enrollment  
VP Burcham shared the positive Fall 2009 enrollment application data.
- Housing  
VP Christner updated Council members on the housing plan for east campus (Damascus and Ives); new renderings/layouts will be presented by Tower-Pinkster at the February 20<sup>th</sup> Board Finance Committee meeting.

- Board of Trustee Committees – Feb. 20  
Guest: Karen Obermier  
Council members reviewed the agenda for each Board committee meeting scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>. FYI: Trustee Baker will be touring the Big Rapids campus February 12 and 13.
- Diversity Office  
CDO Pilgrim shared praise for the *Points of Pride*, which includes several diversity articles. He mentioned that he would like to see diversity components in all unit action plans and performance evaluations, as is recommended in the Diversity Plan. He needs to work with all vice presidents to prioritize diversity initiatives in the action plans. CDO Pilgrim and VP Postema shared potential training and initiatives from the Inclusion Advocate group and will move forward with that unit to make recommendations to Council.
- Higher Learning Commission / Assessment  
CDO Pilgrim explained that the University community should begin dialogue as to how work on preparation for the HLC self-assessment is impacting faculty and staff. It appears that many employees do not understand how HLC and assessment fit together. Mike Cairns and Mike Cooper will present an update to Council on HLC in March.
- Annual Planning  
Council members shared that departments/divisions are working on the annual planning forms. President Eisler offered to spend two hours with each division/college and their leadership team for a tour and open meeting to present their good work over the past year. The meetings will be scheduled throughout March.
- State Budget/Lansing - update  
President Eisler shared an update on the Michigan state budget situation. He is working with state university and community college presidents to maintain autonomy in setting tuition rates. University forums to discuss the budget and economy have been scheduled as “Food for Thought” on Feb. 18 at noon and Feb. 19 at 11:30, both in the Centennial Dining Room, Rankin Center.
- Other  
Council members reported on issues within their divisions. VC Evans shared work with the UpJohn Institute and Design West Michigan on design thinking; there is potential for national articles on the survey results. VP Christer announced that Summer University is scheduled for June 8-10 and requested suggestions for topics. VP Postema reminded of the Feb. 20 Friends of Ferris dinner/auction. VP Willey thanked Council members for their welcome.

**Next meeting date:** February 25, 8:30am-noon, including time with the deans.

**Meeting adjourned 11:50am**

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner