

President's Council Meeting Summary

February 13, 2008

8:30 a.m., CSS 301C

Attendance: Burcham, Duffett, Eisler, Kamptner, Oldfield, Pilgrim, Postema

Action Item: Summary from the January 30, 2008 meeting was approved for posting.

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

Discussions Items:

- “Year of the Dawg” Project
GC Postema distributed material regarding the “Year of the Dawg” community project. Council members will combine funds to personally contribute toward the purchase of a dog.
- Board of Trustees Feb. 15 Schedule
Council members reviewed the February 15th schedule for the Board of Trustees special meeting, working sessions, Finance Committee and Student Affairs/Academic Affairs Committee meetings.
- General Revenue Bonds Series 2008
VP Duffett distributed a timeline for the General Revenue Bonds Series 2008. The Bond Counsel and Underwriter will be on campus later this month to review materials and interview selected employees, including some Council members, as a part of the effort to increase Ferris’ bond rating.
- Diversity Office
CDO Pilgrim reported on several projects on which the office is working, including Diversity Across the Curriculum, the Equity in the Classroom Conference, and videos for the Jim Crow Museum and for prospective employees. He shared that several offices and groups on campus have endorsed the Diversity Plan. President’s Council members then voted unanimously to endorse the Diversity Plan.
- Enrollment
VP Burcham distributed data on Fall 2008 application numbers and mentioned that the applications are being processed much more quickly this spring than last.
- Emergency Management
President Eisler described the three task force groups (students at risk, security infrastructure, and IT/communications) that were initiated following the Virginia Tech tragedy. Based on their reports, a draft document of recommendations has been developed. This draft was distributed to Council members for discussion. Comments from Council members are due to the President by Feb. 22. A message concerning the recommendations will be sent University-wide by Spring Break.
- Inclement Weather Procedures
VP Duffett described the process used for decision making and communication during inclement weather. The Ferris information/hotline number will be communicated to campus before the end of this week. The Inclement Weather policy and procedure will be compared for consistency, and then brought back to Council. Each fall Council members will be reminded of the policy and procedures.

- **Legislature – Budget and Capital Outlay**
President Eisler provided an update on the recent Executive Budget and current discussion on the Capital Outlay bill in Lansing.
- **Strategic Planning – Goals and Initiatives**
President Eisler thanked Council members for their work on strategic planning and expressed his support for the progress that is being made. The Academic Senate has endorsed the core values, mission and vision statements; the Board of Trustees will review the same for endorsement at their meeting on March 21. The goals and initiatives are well on the way and will be discussed at the next two SPARC meetings and presented to the University community at stakeholder conferences over the next few weeks.
- **Team Alignment**
Council members received a laminated copy of the *Compact for the President’s Council* for their notebooks. The Compact will be assessed during this semester.
- **Dates for “Big Discussion Items”**
Council members considered a timeline for discussion of substantive topics.
- **Summer School**
VPs Duffett and Oldfield are working to improve class offerings, expand parking, and propose housing options to increase enrollment for summer school. Additional support will be available to sustain room and board incentives.
- **Scholarship Proposal**
VP Duffett presented a proposal for an annual Scholarship Luncheon to connect student recipients with scholarship donors. Council members supported the concept.
- **GRAM/Property**
President Eisler provided an update on the Grand Rapids Art Museum/Federal Building. VP Duffett presented information on a property issue that may move forward to the Board of Trustees.
- **Other**
 - GC Postema reminded Council members of the Feb. 29 Friends of Ferris dinner/auction.
 - VP Burcham told Council members of work to balance the load on the registration system during the early fall registration period; IT will assist with this.
 - President Eisler reminded Council members to provide feedback on the Dashboard Report.

Next meeting date: The next PC meeting is scheduled for February 27 at the ATC in Grand Rapids.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner