

**President's Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**March 3, 2010**  
**8:30 a.m., CSS 301C**

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

**Action Item:** The summary from the February 15<sup>th</sup> PC meeting was approved for posting.

**Discussion Items:**

- Lansing Update and Budget Issues  
Guest: Sally DePew  
President Eisler shared updates from Lansing regarding candidates and state budget discussions. Council members continued strategic discussions of budget reduction options for the University and the impact of the recently announced Early Retirement Incentive. The Employee Retirement Reception will be postponed from April to June to accommodate ERI-accepted employees. Vice Presidents shared that divisional meetings regarding budget issues are being held and received well.
- Planning Overview  
Guest: Sally DePew  
VP Scoby shared a revision of the one-page document "Planning Overview." It was approved to distribute.
- "Share Your Success" Sessions  
Guest: Sally DePew  
President Eisler provided an updated chart of the 2010 "Share Your Success" Sessions and reminded Council members not to have a presentation, but to encourage faculty and staff to share the good things they are doing. The President will offer a quick introduction, then listen; we will capture the content for each session.
- BOT March 5<sup>th</sup> Committee Meetings  
Guest: Sally DePew and Karen Obermier  
President Eisler provided a draft agenda for the Board of Trustees March 5<sup>th</sup> committee meetings for review and discussion. A working session will precede the committee meetings.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> Senate Appropriation Hearing  
Guest: Sally DePew  
The Senate Higher Education Subcommittee will hold the appropriation hearing at Ferris in IRC 109 from 10:30am-12:35pm, including Ferris State University, Lake Superior State University, Central Michigan University, University of Michigan-Flint, and a student to testify regarding the Promise Grant. A luncheon and campus tour will follow.
- SPARC  
Guest: Sally DePew  
President Eisler requested that vice presidents update the summaries in the Strategic Planning report by March 15<sup>th</sup>. At the March meeting, SPARC will come to closure on the charge for the futures group, hear from the Pedestrian Safety Task Force, and receive the summary of the Strategic Plan. Council members discussed the outcomes and governance issues for SPARC, including a definition of expectations, focus and role of that council. PC will spend a longer session on

SPARC in May or June with a possible retreat in the fall for SPARC. President Eisler remains firm with his commitment to finding an approach that works for SPARC and to fit with what the University needs from this strategic assembly.

- Diversity and Inclusion Office  
Guest: Sally DePew  
President Eisler thanked CDO Pilgrim for his work on the Global Initiative's Naomi Tutu events. CDO Pilgrim is pleased with the collaborative efforts and the wonderful use of the Diversity Mini Grant program to bring Ms. Tutu and others to Ferris. This is a more welcoming campus than when we started the Diversity Plan, although there is more work to be done. He then shared an evolving draft of the Ferris and Kendall Full Time Workforce data and commented that we need to be more aggressive in improving the diversity of our employees. A plan is being drafted to address this issue, and it will be brought to Council at a later date.
- Enrollment  
Guest: Sally DePew  
VP Burcham distributed data on the Fall 2010 enrollment applications and provided the revised Fall 2010 scholarship package. The New Student Receptions were well attended.
- Other  
VC Evans told that Mr. Aquino has offered the JW Marriott as a site for Kendall to exhibit during the 2010 ArtPrize. VP Willey is pleased that Department Chairs from the College of Arts & Sciences attended a CASE conference for professional development on engaging donors; UA&M will work systematically with them. This could become a model for other colleges. VC Green reminded Council members that we must have excellent relationships with community colleges, treating them well in meetings, advertisements, etc. as we move forward with the Ed.D. degree and expanding programming throughout the state. Provost Erickson explained that colleges and the Academic Senate are working hard to create new programs that appeal to incoming students and transfer students. VP Postema thanked Council members for their participation at the Friends of Ferris event on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> where \$23,500 was raised. He also shared that a full proposal was delivered to the FFA. CDO Pilgrim reported that he was moved by a recent visit to Mel Trotter Ministries with VP Willey and President Eisler. President Eisler congratulated VP Postema and thanked him for his efforts for the Friends of Ferris.

**Presentation:**

- Veterans to College  
Guest: Retired Major General Michael Lehnert  
President Eisler introduced Major General Lehnert and his efforts to encourage veterans to attend college. General Lehnert then described today's service persons as men and women who want to make a difference and have a higher level of maturity; he shared that the empirical data reports that veterans also have a higher GPA and higher graduation rates. He has reviewed Ferris' efforts and finds that we are doing all the right things for veterans, including, a Center for Veterans, a special scholarship and support for veterans. The General took questions concerning how we could best prepare for additional veterans at Ferris, i.e., programming, housing, support services, and mentors. He recommended a "road trip" wherein admissions officers and administrators could have the opportunity to share the story of why Ferris would be the best college for them at population centers on both coasts as veterans are leaving the service.

**Next meeting date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 8:30-Noon in CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 12:00pm

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner