

**President's Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**May 5, 2010**  
**8:30 a.m., CSS 301C**

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

**Action Item:** The summary from the April 21<sup>st</sup> PC meeting was approved for posting.

**Discussion Items:**

- Lansing Update and Budget Issues
  - President Eisler shared updates from Lansing regarding state budget discussions.
  - Council members are asked to complete phased budget decisions by mid-May.
  - VP Scoby presented the number of Early Retirement Incentive acceptances and the amount already processed. A subgroup of Warren Hills, VP Scoby and VP Postema will recommend a procedure for accepted employees who have not provided full data sets for processing.
  
- Planning Discussions

President Eisler presented an outline for the May 20<sup>th</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup> planning meetings. By early June, the goal is to weave together the University strategic plan, the divisional strategic plans and the Council members' annual plans/expectations. Council members will complete the "Mutual Appraisal - Appraisal" form and the "Moving Forward on Major Challenges and Opportunities" form in preparation for one-on-one meetings with the President and to share at the upcoming planning meetings. Challenges and opportunities should mirror initiatives in the strategic plan and vice versa.

  - On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Council will focus on the University Strategic Plan - what has been done, what should yet be accomplished, what should be added to the plan, what should be deleted from the plan, the challenges and opportunities, etc. These discussions will help form the agenda for the SPARC retreat on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Council will focus on the divisional strategic plans, where divisions are headed, and how these plans come together with the University plan. Members will share with the group their major initiatives from the Moving Forward document and divisional strategic plan for the coming year in terms of connecting with the University Strategic Plan. Divisions are at different points for plans; vice presidents will share at least a synthesis prior to the 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - June 7<sup>th</sup>, after appraisal meetings, we will focus on how the divisions are moving forward for the year. It will be the starting point to build what vice presidents want to do in their divisions in the year going forward. This session may be two hours with a regular PC meeting after.
  - By the end of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, there should be clarity in strategic planning at the University and vice presidents can build upon this with their divisional planning.
  
- Student Fees Committee Recommendation

President Eisler shared the recommendations from the Student Fees Committee. Given the restraint with tuition it is his desire to limit fee increases to 5% increases or less. Before next year's cycle, Council members will discuss the process, expectations and the cumulative effect of fees.
  
- BOT Working Session

President Eisler confirmed the discussion for the Board of Trustee working session.
  
- BOT Smoking Policy

VP Postema presented recommended red line changes for the Board of Trustee Smoking Policy, Subpart 8-3, based on recent legislation amending the Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act. The Council formed a subgroup of VP Postema, VP Burcham, Jon Shaffer, Mike McKay, and Mike Cairns to review this further.

- Enrollment  
VP Burcham distributed data on the Fall 2010 enrollment, applications and credit hour numbers.
- MCO Signage and Dedication  
A subgroup has been set to discuss signage issues and recommend a dedication date and theme for the new Michigan College of Optometry building.
- Updates / Other
  - The May 2010 “Good News” was distributed.
  - VP Scoby stated that Barnes and Noble is prepared to work with Ferris to provide a book rental opportunity on 200-300 book titles for our students. The Purchasing Office is recommending the University contract move from Office Depot to Staples for the University office supply vendor; details will go to the Board in July. There is continued discussion on the MUCH health care options.
  - VP Postema shared an update on the discussions with the MFT and the upcoming mediated session with the Ferris Faculty Association.
  - Provost Erickson shared that Academic Affairs is in the midst of Interim Dean interviews.
  - VP Burcham and VC Green shared that the visitors from Nigeria are impressed with our programs, are pleased to partner with Ferris, and have enjoyed their visit.
  - VC Davison is moving forward working on the Federal Building details with Christman and others; they are awaiting approval from MEDC and the National Park Service.
  - VP Willey shared continuing conversations with Tim Wondergem regarding effective public relations and networking in Grand Rapids for the Federal Building, including connecting with Art Prize in the fall. He also stated that there is an RFP in process for a PR consultant; our current contract is with Pace and Partners.
  - VC Green told that there are 100 minority students planning to attend camp in the summer to explore degree programs.
  - President Eisler shared several opportunities that he has had lately to see and talk with students – to hear the financial need, personal struggles and accomplishments, and experience their gratefulness for education. He thanked Council members for their excellent work throughout the year.

**Next meeting dates:** May 20, 2010, 8:30am-5:00pm in CSS 301C.  
May 25, 2010, 8:30am-5:00pm in CSS 301C.

Meeting adjourned 11:25am  
Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner