

**President's Council Meeting Summary**  
**May 14, 2008**  
**8:30 a.m., CSS 301C**

**Attendance:** Armstrong, Burcham, Christner, Eisler, Oldfield, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema; Davison by phone

**Action Item:** Summary from the April 23, 2008 meeting was approved for posting.

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

**Presentation:** Mr. John Finn, Administrator of the Wage & Hour Division, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, presented an overview of the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act as it has a direct impact on construction and remodeling projects.

**Discussions Items:**

- 2008-09 University Rate Schedule  
VP Christner distributed the draft 2008-09 University Rate Schedule providing justifications for increases and additions. Council members will take the draft to divisions for discussion. This item will be on the June 11<sup>th</sup> PC agenda for potential approval.
- Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)  
VP Oldfield reported that the Deans Council is recommending VSA - used by Western Michigan, Michigan Tech, Central Michigan, and Michigan State - as a learning outcomes measure for Ferris. The intent is to make university accountability more transparent; the concern is that this process will become regulated and not be voluntary in the future. It is important that one of the prescribed education assessment testing procedures be identified and accepted by the academic community for this to move forward. A wider discussion with faculty members will be important, as well as consultation with and support from the assessment committee and the Academic Senate.
- Diversity Office  
CDO Pilgrim updated the Council on ongoing diversity projects and reported on several upcoming events that will be good diversity opportunities. He then offered to take requests for displaying the core value posters across the University. CDO Pilgrim and VP Armstrong will work on a location for displaying "good news" items.
- July 1 Administrative Increase  
Council members discussed the option of moving the administrative cost of living increase from October 1 to July 1 in line with bargaining units and health care cost increases. Members approved the new timeline with the exception of Kendall College of Art and Design, which will continue with the October date. Letters to the appropriate employees will be sent from AVP Hills and President Eisler.
- Business Policy Letter - *Budget Management Policy*  
Guest: Sally DePew  
Budget Director DePew explained the proposed language clean-up revisions, which mostly reflect changes due to Banner, in the Budget Management Policy. Members will take this to divisions for

discussion, specifically regarding the approved budget transfer amount, and it will be on the June 11<sup>th</sup> PC agenda for potential approval.

- Presidents' Diversity Compact  
CDO Pilgrim will take the lead in encouraging five or six Ferris administrators to attend the Presidents' Diversity Compact in Grand Rapids on June 26.
- Search Committees  
President Eisler provided an update on the vice presidential search committees and timelines:  
*Provost* - Academic Search will continue as the consultant (no cost for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round); most members of the committee will continue; the position synopsis will be revised and a mid-August advertisement release is anticipated with airport interviews between Thanksgiving and December break.  
*VP UA&M* - RPA will be the search consultant; the committee membership is close to completion; materials are being prepared with an anticipated June advertisement release; candidates on campus September or October.  
*VP A&F* - The RFP for a consultant is being prepared; the committee membership is close to completion; materials are being prepared with an anticipated July advertisement release; candidates on campus October or November.
- Efficiencies and Accomplishments  
Efficiencies and Accomplishments reports are due by July 1 to the President.
- Planning  
President Eisler explained the proposed timeline for planning:  
PC will discuss UAP priorities on May 23 and 28;  
PC will review and discuss SPARC's proposed goals and initiatives (Strategic Plan) regarding priorities, approach, implementation and costing on June 18 and July 16; this recommendation will be proposed to the Board of Trustees at the August retreat; SPARC will meet in mid- to late-August to finalize the Strategic Plan; and then the Plan will be shared with the University community on Founders Day. PC will determine the strategy/approach; SPARC will monitor the work of the Plan.
- Appraisal/Aprisal  
President Eisler distributed and provided explanation on the form to be completed by Council members for their individual annual evaluations.
- Other  
VP Armstrong stated that she is honored to serve as Interim VP UA&M and serve on the PC, distributed draft goals that she had developed for this period, and shared that the transition is going well. The University retirement reception for Rick Duffett will be June 10 from 2-4pm in the Dome Room. Materials, photos, letters, and cards are being solicited to be placed in a memory book for VP Duffett. VP Oldfield reported on a team from Ferris visiting China, an update on the MCO Dean search, and meetings regarding potential College of Technology partnerships. CDO Pilgrim requested information and assistance on salary and housing for a visiting lecturer. VC Davison-Wilson welcomed VPs Armstrong and Christner to PC, then mentioned that Kendall enrollment and housing numbers are looking positive for fall.

- President Eisler  
The President thanked Council members for keeping travel calendars updated and distributed an updated Dashboard Report, which will be shared with the Board of Trustees and placed on the Internet.
  
- Agenda Items for the next meeting
  - Capital campaign feasibility project
  - Vice president searches
  - Legislative and budget issues
  - July Board of Trustees meeting materials.

**Meeting adjourned 11:30am.**

**Next meeting date:** The next PC meeting is scheduled for May 23.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner