

President's Council
Meeting Summary
July 13, 2010
8:30 a.m., CSS 301C

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

Action Item: The summary from the June 16th PC meeting was approved for posting.

Discussion Items:

- Budget/ Early Retirement Incentive Issues
Guest: Sally DePew
 - Council members reported that ERIs are done and were completed fairly and consistently. Hundreds of years of service were represented in this large group of retirements.
 - There was discussion regarding rehiring on a temporary part-time basis a few of the ERI retirees for transition and training purposes. The decision to not rehire, as stated in the ERIP documents, was affirmed.
 - The budget reduction phases will position the University to be prepared for the equivalent of a 15% cut from the state and represent an overall reduction of 20%. This long term planning has prepared us well for this year and next. President Eisler will hold additional Budget Forums in the fall. A public message will be prepared sharing the disciplined and strategic ways that the university has accomplished these reductions.

- BOT Working Session
Guest: Karen Obermier
Council members discussed agenda items for the July 14th Board Committee meetings and full Board meeting. President Eisler confirmed the discussion topics for the August 9th Board of Trustee working session. He also shared that there will be a Board working session in Grand Rapids on September 13th in conjunction with a public announcement of the Federal Building.

- Business & Special Expenses Policy
A sub-group will review concerns and related questions in the Business & Special Expenses Policy and return with a recommendation to Council.

- Administrative Performance Evaluation Process
VP Scoby provided a proposal for the review of the Administrative Performance Evaluation. This initiative is identified in the Strategic Plan. The proposal includes developing, administering and evaluating a survey regarding the current process; recommendations from the survey will define future project steps. A revised system will be considered. Council members suggested additional team members to more fully represent the University and approved the project team to move forward.

- December Closing Schedule 2010-11 thru 2014-2015
Mrs. Kamptner distributed a recommendation for the December Closing Schedule 2010-11 thru 2013-2014 as approved by Director of Labor Relations Steve Stratton. Council approved the schedule thru 2013-2014 (the 2014-2015 academic calendar has not yet been approved). The closing schedule will be posted on the Web site.

- Diversity and Inclusion Office
VP Pilgrim reported that students are interested in the Foster/Youth/Orphan scholarship; the Council confirmed initial funding of \$50,000 for this purpose. A Web site and mentoring program has been set up. He mentioned the “OUCH – that stereotype hurts” training continues with positive results. He is hopeful that the Inclusion Council will restart in the fall when faculty return, and he is pleased with *The Pioneer* article on The First Lady’s Attic.
- Enrollment
VP Burcham distributed data on the Fall 2010 application, enrollment, head count and credit hour numbers.
- Planning / SPARC
President Eisler requested an update from VPs on planning within the divisions:
 - Provost Erickson: There is a retreat for deans schedule in August
 - VP Willey: UA&M has completed planning discussions and is moving to operational efforts
 - VP Burcham: Student Affairs has a July 28 retreat scheduled to review the Strategic Plan document and the divisional initiatives
 - VP Scoby: A&F has a July 22 retreat scheduled
 - VP Green: CPTS has collected objectives; they will finalize in August

President Eisler asked VPs if this planning process worked for the divisions, with annual planning to end at the VP level and sharing information at the PC level. He would like feedback by the end of summer.

Council members agreed that the retreat on July 12 was productive and SPARC is well positioned for future meetings. SPARC Chair Johnson will be invited to work with the Council to continue to advance the SPARC Committee.

- Updates / Other
 - Federal Building: VP Davison provided an update on the approvals and discussions. VP Willey shared that the public announcement will be on September 13 in Grand Rapids with Wondergem assisting in the planning.
 - VP Postema shared an update on the MFT vote and the mediated sessions with the Ferris Faculty Association.
 - VP Willey shared that ArtPrize begins Sept. 22 and Ferris will be a lead sponsor of the Arts Council of Grand Rapids.
 - VP Scoby reported that there will not be a Sports Hall of Fame this year, but that it will continue next year with a new Athletic Director in place.
 - President Eisler thanked members for their many efforts on behalf of the University.

Next meeting date: August 4, 8:30am, CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 12:00 pm

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner