

**President's Council Meeting Summary**  
**August 27, 2008**  
**9:20 a.m., CSS 301C**

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

**Action Item:** Summary from the August 6, 2008 meeting was approved for posting.

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

**Discussions Items:**

- Expanded Pre-Employment Background Checks  
Guests: Beth Krueger and Warren Hills  
VP Christner introduced Beth Krueger and Warren Hills, who provided the committee focus and rationale for review of pre-employment background checks, the type of background searches currently used, and a recommendation from the committee. After review and discussion, the Council members approved that the University implement the expanded background search option in partnership with HireRight, that the annual cost be centrally funded, and that an updated HRPP will be brought forward to the Council.
  
- Emergency Preparedness  
Guest: Marc Sheehan  
President Eisler presented a draft document concerning the emergency plans to date. This will be distributed to the University community. Marc Sheehan accepted suggested changes. Vice presidents agreed that all departments will view and discuss the Active Shooter video with a Campus Police officer.
  
- Diversity Office  
CDO Pilgrim updated the Council on several diversity issues and upcoming diversity initiatives, including the Baldwin partnership; diversity discussions with new faculty, Residence Hall Advisors, etc.; the 1<sup>st</sup> Lady's Closet; a procedure for a Visiting Professor program; and a committee to consider a location for the Office of Multicultural Student Services. He also shared that there will be a forum to report the Campus Climate Survey results in late September.
  
- Board of Trustees Information  
Guest: Karen Obermier  
President Eisler distributed "A History of Ferris State University's Mission Statement", the Meetings Calendar Worksheet for the upcoming Board meetings, Major Agenda Items due to the Board as informational items. Karen Obermier provided the new Board committee structure.
  
- Enrollment  
VP Burcham provided data for Fall 2008 enrollment, anticipating that the late orientation numbers look very positive.

- HVAC – Arts & Sciences Complex  
VP Christner shared options and potential timeline for a new HVAC system for the Arts & Sciences entire complex or moving to a geothermal system for that complex. He will present the information to SPARC at the next meeting.
- Founders' Day update  
President Eisler reminded Council members of the events for Founders' Day:  
11:00-11:50am Presidential Address in Rankin Center Dome Room  
11:30am-1:00pm Employee Picnic on the Quad  
1:00-2:30pm Strategic Plan Q&A  
with President Eisler and Robert von der Osten in Rankin CDR  
4:00-7:00pm Picnic on the Quad (Student Activities)  
with inflatable activities, information tables and entertainment  
and Ice Cream Social (General Counsel)
- Guidelines – Faculty/Administration Relationship  
President Eisler presented the document approved through the recent meetings of representatives from faculty and administration, called *Guidelines for an Improved Faculty-Administration Relationship*. Board of Trustees members endorsed the document at their August Retreat; Council members agreed to endorse it; and it will be taken to the Deans' Council. Members to the group will be added to future meetings.
- Other  
VP Christner stated that there are continued good communications between the University, City of Big Rapids and community. VP Armstrong provided information from the Downtown Business Association. VP Burcham reported on curriculum issues. President Eisler mentioned the good work of 1<sup>st</sup> Impressions and Bulldog in Action volunteers, the progress made at the Academic Senate Retreat, and the excitement he feels concerning the year ahead.

**Meeting adjourned 12:10pm.**

**Next meeting date:** The next PC meeting is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> to include the Deans' Council for the purpose of reviewing the Strategic Plan and annual planning documents.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner