

**President's Council
Meeting Summary
September 1, 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 August 18th PC meeting was approved for posting.

Discussion Items:

- Budget
 - State Budget
President Eisler provided an update on the state budget. There is not much progress in Lansing on reaching a final budget. There is a \$200+ million state deficit for next year's budget that has yet to be resolved. If a budget agreement is not reached by September 30th, there may be a possibility for a continuation budget.
 - Budget Management Policy
VP Scoby distributed an updated draft Budget Management Policy for review and discussion. VP Scoby will revise the wording with Provost Erickson prior to posting online for the 30-day university-wide review.
 - Requests for repeated one-time funding
Provost Erickson initiated discussion among Council members regarding how to handle multiple requests for repeated one-time funding; ex: annual golf outing sponsorships, meetings, and events. There were several ideas and comments. A sub-group of VP Scoby, Provost Erickson and VP Pilgrim will prepare and review a list of recurring requests to determine a pattern and possible exceptions before returning to Council with a recommendation.
 - Recurring contracts
VP Scoby requested an understanding of the list of recurring contracts which are included in the annual budget documents. As the costs listed are estimates, what is the threshold before going back if the cost comes in over the approved rate? After discussion, it was determined that VP Scoby and Budget Director DePew will draft a policy to be returned to Council.

- Board of Trustees Meetings – Sept. 13-14
Guest: Karen Obermier
The trustees will hold a retreat on September 13th and 14th which includes the federal building announcement in GR and the East Campus Suites dedication in BR.

- Planning / SPARC
Guest: Leonard Johnson
 - Fall Meetings
SPARC Chair Johnson presented a SPARC fall meetings topic list and accompanying comments gathered from the Academic Senate retreat. People who will be useful to address and frame the topic will be invited to attend the sessions. Discussion included that the Student Engagement discussion might flow better back-to-back following the October 12th Student Success session. It is suggested that the Engagement session will be Nov. 9th and the Online topic will be moved to the December 14th meeting. To allow members time to prepare for the Facilities topic on September 14th, a Briefing Book will be prepared and sent to SPARC

- members on Sept. 6. Materials will include the Master Plan, information on Deferred Maintenance, Rankin IT infrastructure, the Energy Task Force report, and classroom renovations.
- Membership
Chair Johnson is working with deans to fill membership openings from Allied Health, Engineering Technology, and FLITE.
 - Futures group
A subgroup of Chair Johnson, Provost Erickson, VP Green, and Robert von der Osten will meet to discuss the charge, membership, etc. and bring a recommendation regarding this initiative to SPARC.
 - President Eisler thanked Chair Johnson for his work and leadership with SPARC.
- President's Council Schedule and Agenda
Council members agreed to meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month; not the fifth Wednesday, unless necessary. Starting with the September 15th meeting, the start time will be 9am with the intent to complete on or before noon.
 - Fall 2010 Events
An events calendar for Council members was distributed and reviewed.
 - Honorary Doctorate nominations
President Eisler requested that Council members begin the process to bring forward Honorary Doctorate nominations. Names, along with a paragraph summary indicating background and reason for the nomination, should be submitted in time for review by Council at their October 8th meeting.
 - Diversity and Inclusion Office
VP Pilgrim reported on recent presentations, discussions regarding the naming of the foster/orphan initiative and scholarship, and that an outstanding doll collection is to be donated to the Jim Crow Museum. He discussed the possibility of creating a coffee table book to describe the donations and contributors to the Museum, as well as provided an update on fundraising efforts. VP Pigrim reported that another university would like to use Ferris' definitions for diversity and inclusion verbatim; his concern is that they would miss the important campus-wide discussion and learning involved. The Diversity and Inclusion office will be setting a Facebook account.
 - Enrollment
VP Burcham distributed data on the Fall 2010 registration, enrollment, head count and credit hour numbers for Kendall, main campus, other campuses and online. VP Scoby reported that housing numbers have declined.
 - 2-1-1 update
VP Scoby reported that Ferris is allowed a seat on the 2-1-1 board based on our financial pledge to that initiative. VP Burcham and VP Scoby will consider the best person to represent Ferris.
 - Updates / Other
 - VP Postema shared an update on the mediated sessions with the Ferris Faculty Association and the resolution of the Eastern Michigan University faculty contract.
 - VP Willey distributed information on the Helen's Garden dedication and the athletic fundraising appeal.

Approved 9/15/10

- VP Burcham is pleased at the enrollment numbers and the good work of the Admissions and Financial Aid offices.
- VP Green reported on the International Picnic in Big Rapids and the growth in the International program. They are focused on working on retention in the program.
- VP Scoby announced a reception on Sept. 15th for the new Athletic Director, who begins at Ferris on Sept. 10th.
- President Eisler will have conversations in one-on-one meetings regarding the Good News reports. ArtPrize is coming in Grand Rapids; some tickets will be available if Council members would like to attend. He encouraged Council members to begin their FAN groups if they have not already started.

Next meeting date: September 15, 9am-12pm, CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 11:40am

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner