

President's Council
Meeting Summary
October 2, 2013
9:00 a.m., CSS 301C

Attendance:

Armstrong, Davison-Wilson, Eisler, Erickson, Flickinger, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Rosen and Scoby

Agenda:

- The summary from the August 28, 2013 PC meeting was approved for posting.
- New Degree Curriculum
Provost Erickson presented a new Preliminary Curriculum Approval Form (PCAF) for an Actuarial Science BS. Council members support the degree.
- Update on Power Outage
VP Scoby provided an update on the morning campus-wide power outage.
- Board of Trustees
Guest: Karen Huisman
Council discussed agenda items and itinerary for the Board of Trustees October working sessions and meetings.
- Enrollment and Budget Discussion follow-up
Guest: Sally DePew
President Eisler and VP Flickinger shared information on the Enrollment Task Force; recommendations from the group are expected in early November. This is a good cross section of the University with a commitment to the task.
- Cost Containment Initiatives
Guest: Sally DePew
Budget Director DePew explained that the state has asked for specific initiatives which have been implemented to control costs for this fiscal year and next. She distributed a form for each division to complete. Information submitted should include the amount of dollars saved. The information is due to the Budget Office by Oct. 18.
- Academic and Holiday Break Calendars
Academic calendars for 2015, 2016 and 2017 as proposed by the Records Office were approved by the Council; summer schedules may change based on enrollment efforts from Academic Affairs. Holiday Break schedules for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were approved as proposed and will be posted online.
- Media and Web Accessibility Committee Update
VP Green provided an update on efforts to address media and web accessibility for people with disabilities. A Media and Web Accessibility Committee is being created with representation from all divisions. Improvements to accessibility compliance are already underway. The committee will provide periodic updates.

- Student Emergency Fund Discussion
VP Scoby presented a proposal to help with special instances of financial need through the establishment of a Student Emergency Fund. Divisions will transfer funds from carryover to create a beginning balance of \$50,000. Financial Aid Director Sara Dew will develop criteria (possible: student in last semester/senior who has cleared for graduation) and disburse the funds to help students graduate. Council was very supportive and willing to assist.
- Space Planning of Westside Café
VP Scoby distributed a floor plan of the Westside Café and initiated discussion regarding repurpose of the space following closing of the Café. Provost Erickson and VP Scoby will meet with President Eisler to discuss further.
- Honorary Doctorate Candidate Nominations
President Eisler reminded Council members to be gathering nominations for Honorary Doctorate candidates; names will be brought forward in November.
- Round Robin
 - VP Postema distributed the “Reports Required by Boilerplate in FY 2013-14 Higher Education Appropriations Act by Public Universities.”
 - VP Pilgrim reported on challenges with responses to the Diversity Audit RFP, the Henry Louis Gates PBS series premiere in New York, progress in forming a working group on achievement gaps, and speaker Damon Williams for October 10-11.
 - Provost Erickson will be meeting with VP Scoby to recommend options for staff retirees.
 - VP Green, in presenting to an international education conference, reported on the steady increase of Latino students at Ferris. He shared that several community colleges are interested in partnering with the Academic Incubator.
 - VP Flickinger reported that a new Director of Student Conduct will start on October 28.
 - VP Davison-Wilson announced that President Rosen will announce the ArtPrize winner on Friday evening in Grand Rapids. The “pop-up park” between Kendall and the Ferris buildings was a big hit. There were 353 volunteers for the ArtPrize exhibits at Kendall.
 - President Rosen is very pleased at the number and quality of art lovers at ArtPrize. October 29 is scheduled for the Pamella DeVos naming of the School of Fashion Design; invitation will be out soon. There will be an announcement later this month of the Wege Prize for collaborative, sustainable design. The search for a Chief Academic Office at Kendall has begun.
 - VP Scoby shared athletic events for Homecoming Week. The new scoreboard is up and the sound is excellent.
 - EA Kamptner reminded Council members that they are welcome to join the Pride Committee for the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 5.
 - President Eisler reviewed upcoming events: United Way Ferris campaign co-chaired by Linda Telfer and Don Flickinger; West Michigan President’s Compact meeting at Ferris Oct. 10 and Kendall Oct. 11 with speaker Damon Williams; Oct. 24 is the 4.0 Honors dinner; Nov. 1 is the Ferris Foundation Gala. He shared a link to analysis done on student/faculty engagement and presented to the Academic Senate.

Next meeting dates:

PC October 16, 9:00-Noon, CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner