

**President's Council  
Meeting Summary  
October 3, 2012  
9:00 a.m., CSS 301C**

**Attendance:**

Armstrong, Burcham, Davison-Wilson, Eisler, Blake for Erickson, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Rosen (by phone), Scoby

**Action Item:**

- The summary from the September 19, 2012 PC meeting was approved for posting.

**Topic/Discussion Items:**

- Board of Trustees  
Council members discussed follow-up items from the September 21 Board of Trustee sessions in Grand Rapids and considered possible topics for the November meetings.
- Ballot Initiatives  
President Eisler shared an analysis from the Citizens Research Council of Michigan regarding two of the upcoming ballot initiatives. Council discussed Proposal 5 regarding 2/3 vote to increase state taxes – also known as the super-majority proposal. This proposed constitutional amendment would have an irrevocable negative effect on higher education. Because it would have so many unintended consequences, a large and diverse group of individual and organizations are united in opposition. President Eisler will provide an educational piece in an upcoming President's Memorandum.
- Budget Forum  
President Eisler reported that he will present a Budget Forum in October, sharing the dashboard, unrestricted net assets, and other financial information to the University community. The dates and locations will be announced soon.
- Leadership Council  
Council members suggested topics and agenda for the upcoming October Leadership Council meeting.
- Federal Building  
The Grand Rapids Community Foundation annual dinner, a tour by the West Michigan Courts, and ArtPrize visitors are recent events held at the newly opened Historic Federal Building. These occasions have seen record attendance and received positive comments regarding the renovation.
- Strategic Planning  
President Eisler led a conversation about timeframe and goals for reviewing the University's Strategic Plan. He then provided an assignment for Council members to enable continued discussion at the next meeting.

- Round Robin
  - VP Armstrong reported on the divisional reorganization; shared that consultant Patty Cormier will be returning to Ferris to provide professional development on fundraising strategies to the Ferris Foundation and deans; she is drafting a policy regarding volunteers for fundraising; announced two new members of the Foundation board; provided a list of the Foundation Benefit sponsors; and announced the Nerbonnes as Grand Marshalls for Homecoming.
  - VP Pilgrim is pleased that the new Life Coach for the Foster Youth Initiative has been hired; he is preparing to lead the mentoring conversation at the Oct. 9 SPARC meeting; and is assisting DSAGA to bring to Ferris the “FagBug” which includes a documentary and discussion time.
  - VP Postema announced that Matthew Olovson has been hired as the new Equal Opportunity Director.
  - VP Scoby mentioned that the Human Resources office would like to shoot short videos on diversity; VP Pilgrim offered that Franklin Hughes will assist; and VP Armstrong reminded that there has been a video started that may be useful. VP Scoby also told that the Administrative Council has requested time to meet with AVP Grunow and President Eisler to review their data and deliberations.
  - President Rosen shared some of the ArtPrize activities and his pleasure at the large number of volunteers; Kendall was pleased to have one of the top 25 pieces exhibited onsite. It was a definite benefit for Kendall to be an ArtPrize venue.
  - VP Davison-Wilson mentioned the good relationship being restored with Haworth during the Federal Building meetings; they have recently provided a student scholarship. She has enjoyed seeing the human-powered cycles with Ferris ads around Grand Rapids during ArtPrize.
  - VP Green reported that Ferris is underwriting *Shipwrecks* at the Grand Rapids Public Museum; EIO is hosting representatives from Changsha Social Work College this week and another group from China will be visiting soon; and he described his trip to Thailand, paid by UNESCO.
  - AVP Blake told that a Lab Safety Coordinator has been hired and shared about the Silk Road project and Study Abroad.
  - VP Burcham encouraged support of the United Way campaign.
  - President Eisler reminded members of the World Affairs Council dinner on Oct. 8 and shared that he has been named to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Board of Directors.

**Next meeting date:**

Wednesday, October 17, 9:00-11:00am in CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 11:12 a.m.

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner