

**President's Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**October 6, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m., CSS 301C**

**Attendance:** Burcham, Davison-Wilson, Eisler, Erickson, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Scoby

**Action Item:** The summary from the September 15<sup>th</sup> PC meeting was approved for posting.

**Discussion Items:**

- **Budget**  
President Eisler confirmed the 2.8% cut to higher education in the 2010-11 state budget. Because this reduction was anticipated by Ferris, the annual budget was built on this model, approved in July and did not require alteration this fall. Vice Presidents may consider how they use balances until additional base reductions are received after the November election.
- **Planning / SPARC**
  - President Eisler encouraged Vice Presidents to move forward with their goal/initiative plans.
  - Members discussed timing for annualized divisional planning (for 2011-12) and aligning all the processes. A discussion of this process will be added to the next meeting agenda. Last year's process summary will be provided prior to the session for review.
  - Council will hold a day-long session before the winter semester begins as a process check regarding major initiatives and objectives.
  - University-wide budget forums will be held in late October or November to update the budget, state funding, and other information. The Ferris financial statements will be included in the November trustee meeting.
- **Board of Trustees Meetings**  
Council members reviewed and discussed agenda items for the October 8<sup>th</sup> Academic/Student Affairs and Finance Committees, and then reviewed the itinerary and timeline for the Homecoming weekend activities and events.
- **Honorary Doctorate Nominations**  
Council members considered nominations of Honorary Doctorate candidates based on summaries provided from vice presidents, discussed additional nominee opportunities and checks. Other names may be offered during October; a decision on candidates will be made at the Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- **BOT Resolution – Approval of Routine Contracts**  
VP Scoby presented a draft footnote recommendation for the July Budget document (contract page) which will provide flexibility and clarity regarding overages from the estimated dollar amounts in contracts. It was agreed that the following will be added starting next year:  
“Given these are estimates, the approval of this resolution includes authorization up to five percent over these amounts up to a \$10,000 variance on any individual item.”

- **Bus Service from/to Grand Rapids**  
VP Scoby distributed an executive summary and initial cost estimates of a Ferris bus service from and to Grand Rapids. The primary purpose is to provide Grand Rapids-area students, faculty and staff a friendly sustainable alternative for their commute to Big Rapids. This option would assist in growing enrollment; increase the diversity of students, faculty and staff; and provide a mobile image and messaging on the bus throughout the route. Council members had positive reactions, agreed to support the service financially, and expressed a desire for further analysis and costing.
- **Energy Task Force – draft charge and membership**  
VP Scoby requested comments and suggestions for a draft charge and membership for the 2010-11 Energy Task Force. He will distribute the draft at the Oct. 12 SPARC meeting for additional feedback prior to setting the task force.

**11am HLC Presentation:**

The HLC Team of Christine VonderHaar, Roberta Teahen, Mike Cairns, Sandy Balkema returned to Council for further discussion of the report draft. The report continues to be updated, and the latest iteration is posted online. Throughout the report, many of the comments will be aligned with the Strategic Plan. HLC Team members have and will meet individually with Council members to collect added feedback and to gather their analysis and perceptions. Dr. Teahen reports on the HLC preparations at each Academic Senate meeting. President Eisler shared his thanks for the extraordinary work and wonderful input and acceptance of the HLC Team throughout this process; and asked the HLC Team to share with others that there have been two excellent interactive sessions with the President's Council and that this work is strongly supported by the President's Council.

**Next meeting date:** October 20, 10am-12pm, CSS 301C  
Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.  
Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner