



SPARC
March 14, 2017
3:00 p.m., UC 202B

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Mike Berghoef	Kristen Motz
Jan Blair	Dave Nicol
Terri Cook	Josh Olszewski
Steve Durst	Karen Ottobre
Dave Eisler	Joy Pufhal
Clifton Franklund	Steve Reifert
Jody Gardei	Julie Rowan
Kristi Haik	Larry Schult
Dorothy Hart	Jerry Scoby
Sarah Hinkley	Khagendra Thapa
Leonard Johnson	Spence Tower – chair
Kara Kosloski	Mike Vasicek
Paul Kwant	Lisa vonReichbauer
Beth Logan	Matt Wagenheim
Bryan Marquardt	Dan Wanink
Jake Martin	Sue Waters

Guests:

Sharon George, Lilia Herdegen, Cindy Horn, Trinidy Williams, Jonathan Yordy

Chair Spence Tower called the meeting to order and introduced today's topics.

A Focus on Student Strengths

Paul Kwant gave a presentation on how the Strengths program is working in the College of Business. The program is administered through an on-line assessment and gives the subject a holistic view of their natural talent themes. This is being done in some of the FSUS 100 classes. Lilia, a student who went through the program is now a mentor for probationary students that are finding out their Strengths and applying them to cope with academic struggles.

Student Debt at Ferris

President Eisler provided the Council an update on Ferris efforts to reduce student debt at Ferris. Highlights from the presentation include, since 2012 the sharp rise in student debt has been eliminated, few Ferris attendees default on their student loans, we are 4th highest in the State for student mobility from poverty to the top 20% of wage earners, we have consistently restrained both tuition and room and board, the monetary amount of donor

scholarships has increased by 50% between 2013 and 2016, and with the Ferris Challenge Scholars program 53 new endowments have been created since July. An annotated copy of the presentation is accessible [here](#).

In small groups, the Council considered three questions posed to them –

1. What more can we do to help improve the financial literacy of our students and to help them make responsible financial choices? Beyond FSUS, where can this be embedded in the curriculum?
2. Time to degree is critical to the debt students accrue. The average course load this fall semester for Ferris students was 11.3 hours. Should we consider awarding students who complete 30 credits toward their degree in a year (Fall-Spring-Summer) a \$500 scholarship? How do we balance the number of course credits a student can successfully complete with this?
3. Should we consider offering a four-year guarantee? Students who successfully follow a prescribed curricular path are guaranteed the required courses they need to graduate. If as an institution we do not meet this obligation, any additional courses are free.

Responses from each group were shared with the Council.

Chair Tower adjourned the meeting.

Adjourned: 4:41 pm

Next meeting: April 11, 2017, 3pm, UCB 202B

Submitted by Terri S. Cook