Call to Order

President David L. Eisler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

In Attendance

Tracy Busch, Dave Eisler, Don Flickinger, Don Green, Doug Haneline, Karen Obermier, Miles Postema, Jerry Scoby, Melissa Sprague, Allen Sutherby and Morgan Toms

Discussion Notes – The discussion notes from December 8, 2010 were reviewed.

Student Government Update – Morgan Toms. Student Government has been very busy. They are focusing efforts on encouraging attendance at University sporting events. On April 17 in lot 48 a tent will be set up with food and beverages, and games will be provided. April 9 is the Big Event. The annual women’s conference is scheduled for March 15, 2011. This year the Student Government event has been combined with You Beautiful Black Woman’s (YBBW). Breakout sessions will be held in the afternoon, with a keynote speaker in the evening.

Diversity and Inclusion Office Update - David Pilgrim. Thank you to Student Government for collaborating with YBBW. Members of Ferris student organizations B.L.A.C.K. (Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge) and D-SAGA (Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance) collaborated to organize an event showing the film “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin” at 7 p.m. in IRC 121. A reflective discussion will be held immediately after the documentary is aired. The Diversity and Inclusion Office is open to funding collaborative events such as this. This year Ferris will be hosting the Michigan Teen Conference on June 21-22. This happened through the Ferris Youth Initiative (FYI). David will be speaking at Concordia University in Montreal about the Jim Crow Museum. On February 28 one of the traveling exhibits will be at the Wright Museum in Detroit, where they plan to publicly thank DTE Energy Foundation for their gift to the museum. The traveling exhibit is leaving Kendall to go to this event in Detroit. There were over 1,000 visitors to the exhibit at Kendall. If you would like a copy of the civility video, Karen will have a copy for distribution. The Diverse Workforce Task Force Report will be up on the web shortly.

Academic Senate Update – Doug Haneline. The University Curriculum Committee continues its initiative to revise the curriculum process. An issue being addressed currently is coming to terms with technology mediated instruction. As the approval process is written now, it assumes the relationship between technology and instruction is neutral. The Senate recognizes it is not neutral, and they are looking at ways to incorporate this into the approval process. The estimated timeline on this assumes that something will be available at the Senate retreat for review. It is a slow process that involves a lot of research. The Senate has also sponsored “Conversations with the Senate,” where the Senate allows 35 minutes on the agenda for those who wish to discuss
issues with them on various matters. It was requested by the Ferris Faculty Association to have a discussion in March about faculty working conditions. The Senate will have this discussion in March. Senate elections also take place in March. The revisions to the Senate Charter are being reviewed and finalized in order to present them to the Board for approval in March. This past August the Senate authorized a task force to look at its committees. The task force has developed a rubric to analyze the committees to determine how they are functioning, if their missions can be combined, etc. Program reviews are normally done in the fall, but for various reasons the Senate is taking action on some programs at their March meeting. The General Education Task Force is in year three of its process. This year the task force is doing outcomes, which are mostly completed. Town Hall meetings will be held next Monday and Tuesday in Rankin 125 and 127. The Senate outcomes they are looking at right now include, “How do we take the things we have learned at Ferris and put it all together?” The Senate will hold a special meeting with the Higher Learning Commission visiting team in April.

President Eisler noted seeing many more opportunities for people to provide input across campus. Doug Haneline agreed, noting that while we are progressing well in this area, we need to continue to find forums where issues can be raised in a discussion and not as a matter of negotiation.

**Academic Affairs Update** – Don Flickinger for Fritz Erickson. The General Education Task Force is a joint task force between the Senate and Academic Affairs. There seems to be good support for the outcomes as they are coming together. Fred Heck and his leadership are doing a great job. We are coming close to having a set of outcomes that can be presented to campus. The Senate will review the full set in March, with a couple of town hall meetings where the entire campus can review, then they will go back to the Senate in April. The process has involved a number of faculty and the discussion has been stimulating and positive. Regarding transparency, Provost Erickson has been explaining the budget process in all of the college meetings. He has been in the early stages of the organization review process for Academic Affairs. With a number of town hall meetings being held (Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, etc.), they are looking at publishing them as a collective notice, celebrating the transparency in the process. They are in the midst of early summer registration. Through the negotiating process with the Ferris Faculty Association they were able to move the summer registration into the end of January. It seems to be running smoothly.

**Nurses Union/Birkam Health Center Update** – Melissa Sprague. The health center is starting to see cases of the flu. Eight cases have been tested. Two were sent to the state for verification. Those cases were identified as H1N1. It is not too late to get a flu shot. It is still recommended by the health center.

**External and International Operations Update** – Don Green. Yesterday two groups were hosted at Ferris. One was from Nigeria. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding about a relationship we might have to bring in students from Nigeria, and also going as far as leading to a co-curricular development in the future. They sent a member of their Board of Trustees to meet with our Board Chair. Their Rector met with our President. The equipment in Nigeria, even though it was made in Great Britain in the 1950’s, has been very well maintained. They would like to have our gently used equipment to update, but what they are using will prepare
them very well for the transfer to Ferris. Two gentlemen were here from India, with one individual representing the Animation industry, the other from a corporation that runs a higher education company operating in India. They were visiting our Digital Animation and Game Design area, which is a blooming industry in India. Saudi Arabia wants to improve their infrastructure of technically educated people. Ferris is part of a consortium including Penn State, Pittsburgh State University in Kansas, University of Maryland, Ohio State University and Ferris. We are going to do intake of students through Ohio State’s facilities, but then they are going to move throughout the United States. “Bodies Revealed” is an exhibit at the Grand Rapids Museum. Ferris is underwriting a part of this exhibit. We are helping 1,800 students across Kent County and beyond to come to Grand Rapids to see the exhibit during its Career Day when representatives from the Colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Optometry and Engineering Technology will be on hand to explain to students how their colleges are involved in health sciences careers.

Administration and Finance Update – Jerry Scoby. A question was raised regarding the campus calendar not keeping enough history on it. If you have other thoughts on the campus calendar, please contact Ted Halm. The University is looking at offering a bus service in the fall from Big Rapids to Grand Rapids. Facility people are working with David Pilgrim and others looking to make the Jim Crow Museum project a reality. Through some of the one-time budget funds available, more student employment opportunities are becoming available through Administration and Finance. If you are aware of good student workers needing employment, there are opportunities out there. Some opportunities are for this semester, some are for summer semester. It has been some time since bidding for the bookstore operations. In the next few days this Request for Proposal will be finalized for the Board to approve. Also on February 25 we will be asking the Board to be able to move forward with the relocation of Telecomm to a portion of Rankin Center. The decision has been made not to open Carlisle Hall in the fall. Masselink is also closed; Ward Hall is closed this year for improvements. The honors students from Carlisle will be assigned to Ward Hall.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel Update – Miles Postema. Planning for the Friends of Ferris event on February 25 is coming along well. Items are coming in; they could still use more. Tickets are selling but they could sell more. A jazz trio will be playing at the event. Mark your calendars for April 13 for the Lansing Legislative Luncheon.

Clerical Technical Association Update – Allen Sutherby. All is well - nothing new to report.

Non Tenure Track Faculty Organization Update – Tracy Busch for Alice Bandstra. The general membership meeting will be held tonight. They will be electing officers and letting them know how the negotiations process is going. There were very positive reactions to what happened on Thursday.

Student Affairs Update – Very favorable results are coming in from admissions. At this point admits are 10% ahead of the same point year. There is a significant increase in FAFSA’s. They are seeing a lot of good success; meetings are now being held with admitted students, helping them fill out forms, etc. A group is being created for the visioning for the University Center. This group will solicit ideas about what the Rankin facility might or should be.
University Advancement and Marketing Update – The 131 Showdown was a success with nearly 700 students in attendance. There were 5,800 people in attendance for the basketball game. They are aggressively promoting the idea that our University is in Big Rapids, online and across the state, building on the idea of Imagine More.

President’s Update – Dave Eisler. Monday the Federal Building was recognized as one of the top ten news stories of the year by the Grand Rapids Economic Club. Monday we will be announcing the new Task Force on Wellness. The idea is to see if we can create a culture of wellness and use our facilities to help people be healthier. The task force will be out soliciting input. Please attend the Festival of the Arts. There are 59 events with something for everyone. The Board of Trustees Committees will meet on February 25. This will be the first meetings for our newest Trustees, Paul Boyer and Gary Granger (returning). There is no word from the Senate yet on their confirmations, but they have to be done within 90 days. There was a nice audience for the dashboard rollout. Since 2008 we have nearly doubled the average amount of financial support that we provide a student at Ferris. Kudos to those who worked on the recent snow day. Thanks to Jerry and people from the physical plant, and to Shelly Armstrong and Ted Halm for notices and getting them keyed up on the web. Allen Sutherby noted the process could be much faster if there were less changes to the original announcement language. Dave is headed to Lansing today and tomorrow, visiting with legislators. Everyone is waiting to see what the Governor’s budget announcement is going to be on the 19th. The Governor said there would be cuts. What Dave has been hearing is that it will be a 1-year budget with revenue and budgetary targets announced for the second year. The Governor seems focused on having the budget finalized by July 1. The Governor has a follow up address scheduled for April about education. The Governor has talked about, in addition to funding cuts, there will be performance targets implemented.

Adjourned: 9:29 a.m.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier