Call to Order

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

In Attendance

Dan Burcham, Dave Eisler, Fritz Erickson, Don Green, Mike Berghoef (for Rick Griffin), Karen Obermier, David Pilgrim, Miles Postema, Jim Nystrom (for Jim Rumpf), Jerry Scoby, Melissa Sprague, Glen Zobel (for Tom Weaver) and John Willey.

Discussion Notes – the discussion notes from December 9, 2009 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Academic Senate update – Mike Berghoef. The Academic Senate Charter has been updated and approved by the Senate. It is now in front of the faculty for general approval. This should be completed by the end of next week. The Senate approved a standing committee to handle Charter revisions on an annual basis. The Senate has nearly unanimously endorsed the General Education Philosophy Statement. There is continued movement toward increased electronic communications. It is great to have Paula Hadley-Kennedy back.

Birkam Health Center/Nurses Union update – Melissa Sprague. The Health Center has yet to see a case of flu this semester, but they are expecting another wave. Vaccines are still available at no cost. Students that want vaccines are encouraged to come in.

Academic Affairs update – Fritz Erickson. Efforts continue in moving the new Ed.D. in Community College Leadership program forward. Meetings are being held around the state to provide information about this program. The demand is substantial. The Higher Learning Commission is conducting a review of the program. Comments coming back from the evaluator have been amazing – positive. There is much excitement about the Molecular Diagnostics program. Dr. Erickson noted that the University’s process in developing new programs is faster than anywhere he has been. The General Education Review Task Force is up and running. A mission statement has been moved through the Academic Senate. Through the University’s Globalization Initiative the Consul General for the Republic of Turkey visited campus.

College of Professional and Technological Studies/Grand Rapids update – Don Green. China is interested in partnership opportunities with Ferris. Recent travels to China included touring colleges and looking at a wide variety of programs. Efforts continue in providing information regarding our Ed.D. program and include a visit to Mott Community College in Flint on February 19. A new Ferris office is being made at Mott Community College. Lake Michigan College (LMC) is excited about Ferris bringing programs there. Substantial enrollment increases are being reported in Community Colleges across Michigan. Ferris has been asked to form a group to create a stronger higher education presence in Muskegon.
**Student Affairs update** – Dan Burcham. Applications are up 329 compared to last year. The numbers look good for both new and transfer students. The number of scholarships for students coming in from other states seems to be progressing well. More cars are being seen at Dawg Days that are coming from IL, OH, IN, and WI. Attendance for Dawg Days is around 85% of those who sign up. Everyone is invited to attend a Dawg Days event. They start at 10 a.m. in IRC, meeting the students and parents. Student Government is very active right now with the Big Event coming up. A record will be set this year with already 95 houses signed up for the event. President Eisler explained how the evening receptions for admitted students are held. There were 180 students at the reception in Dearborn.

**Ferris Faculty Association (FFA) update** – Jim Nystrom. Various discussions continue within the union on what may happen now or in the future regarding the contract. Some members say a contract is going to happen; that the Board wants to settle on a contract; and that something may be signed. At the same time, at the last general meeting, the reality is that there is still data being gathered. The crisis team still has to talk about what happens if an agreement is not made. Faculty will not have time as the end of the semester approaches. The President’s budget presentations are good; however, it is suggested that using a percentage (10% or other amount) is not as effective as using full dollar amounts. Getting an actuary involved may be helpful. The union discussed workloads and class size issues. The non-tenured faculty are organizing with the American Federation of Teachers. The FFA supports the non-tenured workforce in their effort to organize. FFA members would like to have access to the savings ideas of department heads and deans. The FFA negotiating team is still looking forward to a good contract.

**Governmental Relations and General Counsel update** - Miles Postema. The two negotiating teams have worked just as hard as they could, and earlier than ever. A proposal is being prepared by the administration to put on the table by March 1. There have been approximately 30 meetings held, and not with a negotiator. The discussions have gone well. The administration believes the union will be pleased with the proposal. Three event dates are coming up: the Friends of Ferris Dinner/Auction on Feb. 26th. On March 8 the University is hosting the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Hearings, in IRC 109 at 10:00 a.m. The Lansing Legislative Luncheon will be held on April 27 this year.

**Administration and Finance update** – Jerry Scoby. Three major capital projects are underway. The Optometry building is going up. The design phase of the ASC mechanical system upgrade is being worked through. Recommendations from the Energy Task Force went to Presidents Council. The report was provided to campus. It was considered again after the campus input. Six recommendations from the task force were endorsed. The 15 members of the Pedestrian Safety Task force include faculty, staff, students and local public safety individuals. MDOT is moving ahead with signage improvements on State Street, including improved crosswalk signage. Digital counters were added. MDOT has requested the same thing be placed at Perry and State Street. Improvements are expected to be done by August. Student Government has prepared a 26-page report, including about 42 pages of recommendations for crosswalks. Their report will be adopted into the recommendations from the task force. A University Wide notice is being issued to push for attendance at the last basketball game of the year with Wayne State. A series of budget forums will be held in Administration and Finance, some during the day and some at night.
Discussion Notes, Leadership Council Meeting 2/17/10
Approved 4/14/10

Diversity and Inclusion Office update – David Pilgrim. The University Diversity Plan includes many initiatives. A draft of the document will be available in the next couple of weeks. An evolving draft will continue to be available on the website. Naomi Tutu will be on campus the first week in March. Videos have been made to introduce the campus to that nation and to Ms. Tutu. Thank you to Miles Postema for the leadership you have shown on creating mechanisms for identifying conflicts on our campus. This weekend David Pilgrim made two public addresses in St. Louis. February 21 he will be addressing a group at the public museum as part of the Taste of Soul. February 23 he will be at Grand Rapids Community College speaking on race and ethnicity. The Inclusion Council replaced the Diversity Planning Committee. The first meeting included individuals in attendance by videoconference. The new council includes representatives from each academic college, in addition to others from campus. Student Government is going through their yearly training in “Bulldogs Unmuzzled.” This is a good collaborative event where the Diversity and Inclusion Office works with faculty to develop a training program. The students are then trained to become facilitators at open forums, with various topics. Thank you to the Academic Senate for their work on the General Education Philosophy Statement. The Martin Luther King, Jr. events went well.

AFSCME update – Glen Zobel. AFSCME union members have been concerned about budget cuts. A budget committee has been formed. Thanks to Jerry Scoby for meeting with them so early. On February 16 they heard the news about Center Ice. Regular meetings are held once a month. Each year AFSCME tries to fill a table at the Friends of Ferris event.

University Advancement and Marketing update – John Willey. Michigan has a convergence of challenging situations. The mission is to elevate public appreciation even when conditions are challenging, by establishing systematically, in the public minds, that Ferris is Michigan’s statewide university. Ferris is authentically differentiated. Extensive efforts are being made in emanating this idea, including billboards, spot advertising, and public appearances and visits. Independent sources are needed. Work is being done to build the Foundation’s effectiveness as quickly and efficiently as possible.

President’s update – Dave Eisler. SPARC is meeting on February 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the West Campus Community Center. Discussion will include ideas on creating a future for our University. Efforts with Kendall and the Federal Building continue to move forward. The State of Michigan provided $6 million in tax credits. Space is needed for our Pharmacy students in Grand Rapids. The 125th Anniversary celebration will include many activities. A community dinner is scheduled for April 22, the same day as a symposium is being held for former Presidents of Ferris. Festival of the Arts activities have been well attended. There is more uncertainty than ever in Lansing over the State Budget. On February 16 a visit was made with all the Presidents of the FSU Bargaining groups on campus, talking about the early retirement incentive program. Information on the program will be sent out to everyone on campus in the next day or so. Thank you to everyone for coming.

Adjournment: At 9:57 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier