Call to Order

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

In Attendance

Alice Bandstra, Dan Burcham, Dave Eisler, Fritz Erickson, Mike Berghoef (for Doug Haneline), Karen Obermier, Miles Postema, Jim Rumpf, Jerry Scoby, Morgan Toms, Tom Weaver and John Willey.

Dave Eisler introduced and welcomed Alice Bandstra as the representative from the Nontenure Track Faculty Association at Ferris State University.

Discussion Notes – the discussion notes from April 14, 2010 were reviewed. No changes were noted.

Student Affairs update – Dan Burcham. At the third Dawg Days this semester there were 13 walk-ins along with the number that was expected for attendance. Thanks to Academic Affairs, physical plant, and dining services for their assistance with Dawg Days. Early applications show significant growth. The first Enrollment Summit was held yesterday. It was well attended. Homecoming was excellent this year. Thanks to University Advancement and Marketing and athletics. A co-curricular transcript is being introduced that will show credit for involvement for activities outside of the classroom. On the OrgSync system over 7,600 students have signed up, and almost every organization on campus is signed up. A new software system has been implemented call Retention Pro. It provides the University with an early warning system on whichever issues may be relevant and helpful to students. Thank you to Morgan Toms for the work of the Student Government.

Academic Affairs update - Fritz Erickson. Assistance is being provided in support of the College of Allied Health Sciences during the transition time of the Dean position. The process in selecting an interim Dean is the same as what has been done with other colleges recently. Two finalists are Zigmond Kozicki and Julie Coon. A review of the academic organization will begin today, including meetings with colleges and receiving input from across campus.

Dave Eisler inquired about the two teacher education accrediting agencies which may have merged, or will be merging. Fritz Erickson will check into this and report back.

Administration and Finance update - Jerry Scoby. The Optometry Building project is progressing. It is scheduled to open in January. Pennock Hall will be demolished this summer. The Arts & Sciences Mechanical System project is nearing completion. The Administration and Finance Division is providing support for the Federal Building project, assisting
Sandy Davison-Wilson as much as possible. Mike Hughes will be stepping in as the program planning is finishing up and it moves into the construction phase. The bonds are expected to be sold, on the Ferris end, during the month of November. Over the next couple of months a review will be made as to where to deploy the positions that unfolded from the Early Retirement Incentive Program. The Summer University program is being reviewed. Those involved in this project are looking for ways to easily identify themes as it moves forward. Anyone who may have insights into this process for next year, please let Jerry know. The next phase of the Energy Task Force is expected to be announced the first week of November. The goal is to launch in November and wrap it up in March. This time the focus will be on behavioral issues rather than systems.

Tom Weaver reported on an inquiry he received regarding why a flag has not been placed on the structure at the construction site of the Optometry building, as has been done on past structures. Jerry Scoby will check into this and report back to Tom. Dave Eisler noted that the Veteran’s Day Breakfast is scheduled for November 11th at 7:30 a.m. in the Dome Room. A speaker has been identified.

Non Tenure-Track Faculty Association update - Alice Bandstra. A general membership meeting was held a couple of weeks ago. A constitution and bargaining platform was approved. Good support was received by the members. Two teams have been formed: a communications team and a bargaining team. The members are hopeful that bargaining can begin in November with a contract completion by the end of this academic year. The goal is to have a contract in place as they begin the fall semester.

Academic Senate update – Mike Berhoef. The General Education review continues. College by college meetings are being conducted to get college-specific feedback, to be followed by town hall meetings. On October 26 the annual luncheon was held with the committee chairs. Sixteen people attended. The challenges include trying to populate the committees with wide representation, while enabling everyone to participate fully. The committees are being evaluated, looking at how the committees are functioning as a whole, how they are proceeding with their mission, if there are chronic issues, etc. The University Curriculum Committee is doing a lot of clean-up of programs. The Academic Program Review Committee is on their normal cycle of review. The Research and Professional Development Committees are looking at moving toward more of a mentoring model to get higher quality proposals to both of those committees. Part of the committee reviews is clarifying the role, function and boundaries of the committees. If anyone sees issues out there that are academic issues and feel they could be served by one of these committees, please let the Academic Senate know. Student involvement is high. The Executive Committee is taking turns attending the Student Government meetings. The Charter Review process continues on an annual basis. Dave Eisler noted the evening the Academic Program Review Committee meets annually, dinner will be provided at The Rock.

Student Government update – Morgan Toms. The semester started with 13 new members. Now there are 45-50 members total. The annual Blues and BBQ event was held in conjunction with the Student Veteran’s Association. The holiday food drive continues this year; it has been expanded to include the community. In addition to the regular placement of boxes on campus, boxes will be set up at various businesses and churches, and the time period will include
Thanksgiving. A community affairs committee has been created. The Chair of that committee now sits on the city council; he has been invited to participate in the Town Gown meetings; and, the Student Government has been asked for a student representative to sit on the city’s housing board. The main goal this year is to increase collaboration and co-sponsorships with other organizations on campus. A public relations committee has been created to help Registered Student Organizations get word of their events out. The Student Government is looking for opportunities to sit on other committees (external to their organization), so please let them know if anyone is aware of an appropriate availability for them. Planning for next year’s Big Event is already underway.

*Dave Eisler* noted he received a letter from a food bank, extending their appreciation to whoever left them six bags or boxes of food. Possible donors included Student Government, or the American Welding Society’s Student Chapter.

**Ferris Faculty Association update – Jim Rumpf.** The FFA held a special meeting last night to discuss the tentative agreement. Voting for ratification was open immediately afterwards and will continue through Monday. The votes will be counted on Tuesday. Jim indicated some information needed to be verified regarding the number of faculty we actually have on campus. He noted some members have inquired as to how much the University spent on Jim Greene and other advisors to anyone at the University during the bargaining process. *Dave Eisler* indicated a formal request would not be necessary to receive this information, and it will be provided.

**AFSCME update – Tom Weaver.** The monthly meetings with Jerry Scoby are appreciated. There is a large population of aging employees on campus, and the physical plant will be losing a lot of talent and experience to employees retiring. Tom encouraged those involved in the process of replacing positions to expedite the process as much as possible. Complaints are being received from campus regarding services not being completed. Tom noted the difficulty in operating with 5 carpenters when there were 13. He suggested any cost savings, such as in skilled trades, be recognized and used in positions, either through overtime or in filling vacancies. Tom noted the challenge of getting into the classrooms at the times they are available to have the work completed. Some of the paperless processes are hindering opportunities and creating delays for the AFSCME workers. It is difficult for AFSCME workers to get online during work hours. Student workers have not yet been assigned to the physical plant. Regarding contract maintenance, the number one issue is health insurance; then across the board increases; and better use of overtime. Please get positions filled and let everyone know that the AFSCME workers are doing their best with what they have.

**University Advancement and Marketing – John Willey.** The core issue continues to be to build market share in a soft economy, and to establish firmly in the public mind that Ferris is a truly distinctive institution. This message will be showing up in the University’s advertising, admissions, billboards, etc. The University needs to raise more money from independent sources. Identifying who the University’s donors are has been an interesting and surprising experience. Now that the individuals have been identified, efforts are more systematic in approaching them. The new website will be launched soon. It was requested to take another look at the removal of the campus calendar so quickly after a period is over. Jerry Scoby will look into this issue.
Jim Rumpf inquired if there was a concerted effort to promote undersubscribed programs on the Big Rapids campus. Dan Burcham indicated our e-recruiting efforts are reflective of this type of promotion, but he would look further into this. Dave Eisler suggested it may be helpful to expose our career undecided students located in classes within our University College to these undersubscribed programs.

Governmental Relations and General Counsel – Miles Postema. February 25, 2010 is the next annual Friends of Ferris fundraiser. A date has not yet been set for the legislative luncheon. A vacancy was created in the Governmental Relations/General Counsel’s office with the transfer of Geri Johnson to the College of Engineering Technology. Jody Greco from Rockford has been hired in this position. Miles encouraged everyone to get to know Jody and to assist in exposing her to various areas/departments on campus and those external areas relative to the University. The position originally held by Pam Meadows is still vacant; the position is being reviewed to see how best to fill it. A team is close to being identified for bargaining with the Nontenure Track Faculty Association. Miles noted the negotiations should be able to commence along the timeline that Alice Bandstra referred to earlier in this meeting.

President’s update – Dave Eisler. The SPARC group did not meet in October. They will meet again in November. They meet the second Tuesday of every month at 3:00 p.m. over in the West Campus Community Center. The next discussion will be on facilities and student success. He encouraged everyone to attend. The announcement of the Federal Building project in Grand Rapids has provided additional opportunity for fundraising. He encouraged everyone to vote in November. Additional budget forums are scheduled for after the election. Governor Granholm again proposed Trustee appointments to our Board, which were again denied by the Senate. Efforts continue regarding the community college legislation. Community colleges are working to allow bachelor degree programs to be offered at community colleges. At the moment they are talking in terms of limited programs at various locations. We will continue to watch this.

Adjournment: At 9:55 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Karen K. Obermier