President's Council
Meeting Summary
September 1, 2010
8:30 a.m., CSS 301C

Attendance: Burcham, Eisler, Erickson, Green, Kamptner, Pilgrim, Postema, Scoby, Willey;
Davison-Wilson by phone

Action Item: The summary from the August 18th PC meeting was approved for posting.

Discussion Items:
- **Budget**
  - State Budget
    President Eisler provided an update on the state budget. There is not much progress in
    Lansing on reaching a final budget. There is a $200+ million state deficit for next year’s budget
    that has yet to be resolved. If a budget agreement is not reached by September 30th, there may
    be a possibility for a continuation budget.
  - Budget Management Policy
    VP Scoby distributed an updated draft Budget Management Policy for review and discussion.
    VP Scoby will revise the wording with Provost Erickson prior to posting online for the 30-day
    university-wide review.
  - Requests for repeated one-time funding
    Provost Erickson initiated discussion among Council members regarding how to handle
    multiple requests for repeated one-time funding; ex: annual golf outing sponsorships, meetings,
    and events. There were several ideas and comments. A sub-group of VP Scoby, Provost
    Erickson and VP Pilgrim will prepare and review a list of recurring requests to determine a
    pattern and possible exceptions before returning to Council with a recommendation.
  - Recurring contracts
    VP Scoby requested an understanding of the list of recurring contracts which are included in
    the annual budget documents. As the costs listed are estimates, what is the threshold before
    going back if the cost comes in over the approved rate? After discussion, it was determined that
    VP Scoby and Budget Director DePew will draft a policy to be returned to Council.

- Board of Trustees Meetings – Sept. 13-14
  Guest: Karen Obermier
  The trustees will hold a retreat on September 13th and 14th which includes the federal building
  announcement in GR and the East Campus Suites dedication in BR.

- Planning / SPARC
  Guest: Leonard Johnson
  - Fall Meetings
    SPARC Chair Johnson presented a SPARC fall meetings topic list and accompanying
    comments gathered from the Academic Senate retreat. People who will be useful to address
    and frame the topic will be invited to attend the sessions. Discussion included that the
    Student Engagement discussion might flow better back-to-back following the October 12th
    Student Success session. It is suggested that the Engagement session will be Nov. 9th and the
    Online topic will be moved to the December 14th meeting. To allow members time to prepare
    for the Facilities topic on September 14th, a Briefing Book will be prepared and sent to SPARC
members on Sept. 6. Materials will include the Master Plan, information on Deferred Maintenance, Rankin IT infrastructure, the Energy Task Force report, and classroom renovations.

- **Membership**
  Chair Johnson is working with deans to fill membership openings from Allied Health, Engineering Technology, and FLITE.

- **Futures group**
  A subgroup of Chair Johnson, Provost Erickson, VP Green, and Robert von der Osten will meet to discuss the charge, membership, etc. and bring a recommendation regarding this initiative to SPARC.

- **President Eisler thanked Chair Johnson for his work and leadership with SPARC.**

- **President’s Council Schedule and Agenda**
  Council members agreed to meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month; not the fifth Wednesday, unless necessary. Starting with the September 15th meeting, the start time will be 9am with the intent to complete on or before noon.

- **Fall 2010 Events**
  An events calendar for Council members was distributed and reviewed.

- **Honorary Doctorate nominations**
  President Eisler requested that Council members begin the process to bring forward Honorary Doctorate nominations. Names, along with a paragraph summary indicating background and reason for the nomination, should be submitted in time for review by Council at their October 8th meeting.

- **Diversity and Inclusion Office**
  VP Pilgrim reported on recent presentations, discussions regarding the naming of the foster/orphan initiative and scholarship, and that an outstanding doll collection is to be donated to the Jim Crow Museum. He discussed the possibility of creating a coffee table book to describe the donations and contributors to the Museum, as well as provided an update on fundraising efforts. VP Pigrim reported that another university would like to use Ferris’ definitions for diversity and inclusion verbatim; his concern is that they would miss the important campus-wide discussion and learning involved. The Diversity and Inclusion office will be setting a Facebook account.

- **Enrollment**
  VP Burcham distributed data on the Fall 2010 registration, enrollment, head count and credit hour numbers for Kendall, main campus, other campuses and online. VP Scoby reported that housing numbers have declined.

- **2-1-1 update**
  VP Scoby reported that Ferris is allowed a seat on the 2-1-1 board based on our financial pledge to that initiative. VP Burcham and VP Scoby will consider the best person to represent Ferris.

- **Updates / Other**
  - VP Postema shared an update on the mediated sessions with the Ferris Faculty Association and the resolution of the Eastern Michigan University faculty contract.
  - VP Willey distributed information on the Helen’s Garden dedication and the athletic fundraising appeal.
• VP Burcham is pleased at the enrollment numbers and the good work of the Admissions and Financial Aid offices.
• VP Green reported on the International Picnic in Big Rapids and the growth in the International program. They are focused on working on retention in the program.
• VP Scoby announced a reception on Sept. 15th for the new Athletic Director, who begins at Ferris on Sept. 10th.
• President Eisler will have conversations in one-on-one meetings regarding the Good News reports. ArtPrize is coming in Grand Rapids; some tickets will be available if Council members would like to attend. He encouraged Council members to begin their FAN groups if they have not already started.

Next meeting date: September 15, 9am-12pm, CSS 301C

Meeting adjourned 11:40am

Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner