Student Debt Task Force

A major focus for the year ahead is our continued efforts to address the growing problem of student debt. Last year we held a number of forums to raise awareness about this issue. In each of those forums we identified the underlying causes and took time to solicit your best thinking on how we can help reduce this burden for our students. We received well over 1,000 ideas, proposals and suggestions. These have been refined into 115 statements in four categories and have been reviewed by groups throughout the university, including the Strategic Planning and Resource Council and the Board of Trustees. (This document can be accessed at http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/strategic/minutes/ by choosing the file entitled “Student Debt: Draft Ideas and Suggestions for Consideration.”)

On Thursday I announced a university-wide task force on student debt. Professor of Education and SPARC Chair Leonard Johnson will chair this group. I want to thank Leonard and task force members Cathy Archer, Dan Burcham, Sara Dew, Fritz Erickson, Doug Haneline, Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, David Marion, Kristy Motz, Bill Potter and Jim Rumpf for agreeing to serve. Their charge is to–

- Identify broad priorities for current efforts
- Consider how to engage the entire university community
- Empower faculty leadership for this effort.

The task force’s examinations will focus on three major areas –

- Controlling/Reducing Costs
- Finances and Financial Literacy
- Time To Degree

We cannot delay in moving forward to help our students. The task force will report back to SPARC at their November 13th meeting.

David L. Eisler, president