1. Do you agree with the Governor’s proposal to freeze or restrain tuition for academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11?

We do not agree with the Governor’s proposal to freeze tuition for 2010 and 2011. A tuition freeze represents an acceleration of the long-term depletion and disinvestment in higher education that truly is at odds with the public interest. At Ferris State University from Fiscal Year 2002 to Fiscal Year 2009, state funds have declined approximately ten percent. For a state that needs college-educated professionals – especially in such fields as health care – disinvestment in higher education simply means that we will pay more later for the goods and services we need. In 1980 state support accounted for 68 percent of Ferris’ general fund revenue. Today, that figure is just 29 percent, with tuition making up 69 percent. This shifting of this financial burden for a college education means that a tuition freeze at Ferris would have an economic impact on the University’s budget two-and-one-half times greater than a 3 percent reduction in state funding. Combined with mandated cost increases this would create a 14-15 percent revenue reduction, without question the largest budget reduction in our history and something that could create lasting damage for our University.

A short-term freeze on tuition that ultimately erodes base funding will do nothing to produce more graduates, fuel the new economy and improve the quality of individual lives, as well as the vibrancy of the state generally. In fact, it reduces support for the financial aid that our poorest students need most and limits access to education when our state needs it most. In this economy, we need those students to move up and help us develop the new products and new services we desperately need. We cannot increase this aid if its source is taken from us.

Ferris State is committed to restraining cost increases to our students. It is vital to Michigan’s economic recovery that more Michigan citizens are well-educated and more receive college degrees. As a result, this year we will not seek to fully meet the embedded cost increases in our budget through tuition. This will result in an additional, budget reduction beyond the 3 percent contained in the Executive Budget proposal.

2. Do you support the elimination of the King-Chavez-Parks Initiative?

We strongly oppose the elimination of the King-Chavez-Parks Initiatives. The various programs that form KCP have done much to help the educationally disadvantaged. At Ferris,
- KCP’s College Day Program, coordinated by our Office of Minority Student Services, brings approximately 1,000 7th through 12th grade students to the Ferris campus to experience university life.
- KCP Future Faculty Fellowships have helped more than 30 recipients, including Gloria Lukusa-Barnett who now is an Associate Professor of Developmental Programs and Curriculum at Ferris.
- KCP’s Visiting Professor Program has brought upwards of 50 scholars to campus, some of whom have made a lasting mark at Ferris, including Sociology Professor and now Chief Diversity Officer at Ferris, David Pilgrim.

This is not a large amount of funding for Ferris, a little over $100,000, but it is an important symbol of hope for those who have not in the past had access to education.

3. What progress is your university making regarding the transfer of technology to the commercial marketplace?

The University has as a primary function the application of new technology as well as the preparation of individuals to effectively and efficiently utilize that technology. It is not possible for the University to quantify the number of jobs that may have been created or retained, but we are confident that the extensive involvement of the University in preparing individuals for varied careers in the health sciences, manufacturing, construction, and business areas is resulting in positive economic benefit for the State of Michigan.

In the past 18 months, the University has committed efforts and resources toward improving energy efficiency. To this end, the University sponsored an energy forum in April 2008 and April 2009 that attracted more than 200 business and community leaders. Many companies have recently been on the campus to explore ways in which the University can contribute to advancing knowledge about alternative energy, including wind and fuel-cell technologies. The University is well positioned to address the strategic state and national priority to seek alternative and efficient energy solutions and Michigan should expect to see Ferris emerge as a leader in this area.

Ferris State’s College of Technology is administering an Energy Efficiency and Cost Reduction Initiative, which includes a Rebuild Michigan Community Partnership grant. This grant, as well as several other efforts to reduce energy consumption, has been done in collaboration with Mecosta county organizations along with city and county governments. The goal is to assist the Mecosta county area in retaining economic vitality.

Ferris hosted the Michigan Energy Conference and has worked collaboratively with west Michigan organizations to address energy challenges facing this state. Ferris has visited, hosted, and otherwise communicated with an extensive number of companies regarding energy. Conversations have revolved around partnership, employment, internship and training. Many companies seek Ferris graduates to address employment needs associated with new energy technologies. Additionally, we are actively pursuing curriculum development and articulations associated with energy.
Our College of Technology continues to be a desired source of graduates for companies both in this state and nation-wide. Many of our programs still struggle to provide sufficient graduates to meet the needs of industry. Our challenge is to recruit sufficient numbers of students to fill programs with high-demand, high-pay opportunities, and to make this education affordable for our citizens.

Ferris State University continues to provide customized training and certification testing to Michigan industries. Approximately 200 employees received customized training designed to enhance their ability to thrive in an increasingly competitive industrial environment. Most training focuses on plant floor activities, and is consequently not directly related to the R & D activities of the enterprise. An additional 100 employees completed certification testing in skilled trades areas.

Through its Colleges of Optometry and Pharmacy, the University assists professionals in contributing to advanced knowledge in these areas, and to conduct applied research through clinics and practices throughout the state of Michigan. Although we can trace no patents in the past year, the Ferris leadership in these colleges can point to advancing knowledge in areas critical to maintaining a healthy citizenry.

Through partnerships with Michigan Works and directly with employers, over the past two years Ferris State University has worked with many companies (particularly in the manufacturing sector), individuals in retraining or upgrading efforts, school districts, and associations, such as those associated with the trades.

4. How much have your university general fund expenditures grown over the past five years? Has the growth rate exceeded the rate of change in inflation, and if so, why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Expenditures</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>FYES</th>
<th>$/FYES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2008</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>11,392</td>
<td>$12,688</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2007</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
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<td>FY 2006</td>
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<td>FY 2005</td>
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<td>FY 2004</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,340</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Change FY 04 to 08 23.61% 12.19%
Average annual change 4.72% 2.44%

Over the past five years, Ferris' general fund spending has increased from $117 million in FY 2004 to $145 million in FY 2008. This increase averages 4.7 percent per year. During this period Ferris State University has also been the fastest growing public university in Michigan. Much of the increase in general fund spending can attributed to the 14.6 percent enrollment growth we’ve experienced from fall of 2004 to fall 2008.
A better comparison of educational spending is contained in the final column of the graph on the previous page, $/FYES. On this measure costs have increased an average of 2.44 percent during this period. Major factors reflected in these increases include energy costs, student financial aid support, and employee benefits, especially in state mandated Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System costs (which have increased more than 33 percent in the past five years).

Using this measure, from fiscal year 2004 to fiscal year 2008, Ferris’ spending per student has increased by 2.44 percent, far less than the rate of inflation.

5. If your university receives any Federal stimulus dollars, how would you plan to spend that revenue?

Because student access to higher education is extremely important, Ferris would first use stimulus dollars to offset a portion of the annual resident undergraduate tuition increases. In addition, stimulus dollars would be used to support infrastructure projects at the University. As an example, the mechanical systems for our Arts and Science classroom facilities are outdated and need to be upgraded. An appropriate upgrade could be to convert to a geothermal mechanical system. However, this is a costly endeavor and one that the University cannot afford without additional support. This is an example of just one of several appropriate projects for which stimulus dollars would be used to support green initiatives that facilitate energy conservation and sustainability.

6. What kinds of services does your university provide for U. S. war veterans? Does your institution allow all veterans enrolled to pay Michigan resident tuition and fee rates, regardless of their state of residency?

Ferris State University has a long and proud history of providing educational opportunities to veterans of the armed sources. Ferris allows all veterans to pay Michigan resident tuition and fee rates, regardless of their residency status. Additionally, we provide a $1,000 annual scholarship for all veterans who have served at least six months of active duty. We maintain a special office specifically for veterans, and have created a student organization specifically for veterans. We currently provide all the services currently requested by statewide veteran student groups.

Beyond financial aid, Ferris provides a variety of support services for veterans that are detailed on our website at http://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/veteducational.html. These services include what educational benefits are available, how to apply for them, University contacts for personal counseling services, and informational links to a variety of useful information for veterans. Our site is frequently presented as an example of the type of support universities should provide veterans as they make the transition to pursuing a university education.