SPARC
September 14, 2010
3:00pm, WCCC
Meeting Summary

In Attendance:
Cathy Archer
Dan Burcham
Bob Eastley
David Eisler
Fritz Erickson
Don Green
Rick Griffin
Kim Hancock
Doug Haneline
Mike Hughes
Leonard Johnson
Jim Jones
John Norton
David Pilgrim

Matt Pinter
Miles Postema
Kristen Salomonson
Jerry Scoby
Mischelle Stone
Morgan Toms
Nate Tymes
John Urbanick
Robert von der Osten
Chris Westerkamp
John Willey
Helen Woodman
Leroy Wright

Guests: Mark Schuelke, Rick Griffin, Don Flickinger

Introduction:
New committee members have joined the group; all members were introduced.

Action/Updates:
April Meeting and July Retreat Summaries
1. SPARC members reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 23, 2010 meeting
2. SPARC members reviewed and approved the summary of the July 12, 2010 Summer Retreat.

Update on the “Future” Task Force
3. Leonard Johnson, Fritz Erickson, Don Green and Robert von der Osten met to discuss the “blue sky” task force name and charge. A recommendation will be forwarded to SPARC members following feedback from the Provost and President.

Discussion:
4. Facilities Management
   a. Energy Task Force Report – VP Scoby provided a briefing from the two-page document (attached) titled “Energy Conservation Task Force Report, Updated December 9, 2009” and responded to questions regarding actions and timelines included in the recommendations. Physical Plant is moving forward with recommended items from the report matrix. There may be a second task force, populated with a new group, initiated this academic year to address a second round of issues. To move forward on the behavioral side (i.e. switching lights off, dialing temperatures up/down depending on the season, wearing clothing appropriate for the season, etc.), will mean more buy-in, programming help and coordination throughout the University community. This will also involve Student Government and could include assistance through RSOs (for recycling, volunteering) and academic programs (for new LEED-certified building plans and facilities planning).
b. Pedestrian Safety Task Force Status Report – VP Scoby distributed a status report (attached), highlighting the many completed projects on the recommended list, including crosswalks, new striping and signs throughout the Big Rapids campus. Some of the recommendations will be completed next summer due to timing and funding issues. He also shared the items in which MDOT has denied requests or continues to review the options, i.e. school zone speed limit, traffic lights, pedestrian lights. There continues to be a bottleneck at the Timme corner; the master plan will address this. SPARC members discussed ways in which there can be communication to the University community to address and define traffic safety and procedures.

c. Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance Project Update – Mr. Hughes presented an update on the CRDM project, sharing the many facilities, utility and municipal infrastructure assets. The systems are reviewed when new buildings and renovations are proposed, which includes much planning and funding. In 2005, the Board of Trustees approved $1 million for facility and utility assessment to understand and set criteria. $16.5 million was approved in 2007 ($3.3 million per year) for the five year period FY’08-FY’12 for facility upgrades. Based on priorities and efficiencies in the projects, $13.2 million has been allocated to date; $9.52 million has been expended as of 9/1/10 ($4.38 million on facilities and $5.14 million on utilities. Phase 1 has an expected completion date of summer 2012. SPARC members asked if similar long-term planning is being accomplished in IT. Mr. Urbanick stated that Ferris is on the third year of the IT plan. They continue to meet and prioritize on IT issues and resources. It is time to revisit the plan and determine the needs from the University community. This could be a discussion topic for SPARC for next semester.

d. Learning Environments Renovations Project Update – VP Scoby shared that renovations of classrooms and labs have been a high priority and presented the long list (attached) of rooms renovated to date: 58 classrooms and 11 labs. The remodeled and updated rooms have provided a better environment for teaching and learning; both faculty members and students have enjoyed the accommodations. We started with the goal to fix every classroom and had to step away from the plan during budget and staff reductions. Provost Erickson is pleased that Ferris has a commitment to classrooms and will start allocating so that the project may continue and provide energetic environments. SPARC members initiated discussion regarding classroom space, building “ownership” and a model for course scheduling.

e. Facilities Master Plan – VP Scoby distributed copies of pages 20 and 36 of the University’s “Facilities Master Plan – Big Rapids Campus”, dated March 2009 (http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/pdf/BRmasterplan09.pdf). VP Scoby described and responded to questions regarding the proposed buildings, parking lots, fields, walkways and connections. He reminded that the plan calls for an ongoing effort to push parking to the perimeter and closing/reducing bottleneck traffic flow areas. The group reviewed part of this topic and will complete this discussion in the next meeting.

Closing / Next meeting date:
Chair Johnson thanked members for their participation and shared an assignment for the next meeting: conduct an informal poll with students asking “What does success look like for you?” and “In what ways might the university best support your efforts to achieve success?” The next meeting will be October 12, 2010, 3-5pm, WCCC, for a continuation of the Master Plan and discussion of Student Success.

Adjourned 4:55pm
Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner