Todd Stanislav was pleased to discuss the New Faculty Transition Program at the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning where faculty are able to add important topics to their knowledge base throughout the academic year by learning about topics such as learning outcomes, assessment, course design and implementation, etc. Todd also discussed the Faculty Center’s “Faculty in Residence” initiative, which exists to assist in the area of faculty development. Two Ferris faculty will be taking a leadership role in this initiative this summer. Todd also outlined other learning opportunities in place for faculty including interactive activities relevant to their teaching needs, a mid-term assessment program where they are given student feedback, the “Inquires into Teaching Project,” his involvement in co-hosting a conference with Grand Valley State University, and his participation on behalf of the Provost’s Office in the World Affairs Council, which creates opportunities for students to attend various functions and Webinars pertaining to their educational experience.

Laurie Daniels was very pleased to say that the Faculty Center’s Website has been upgraded and reorganized to be more uniform and user friendly.

Meegan Lillis was very pleased to discuss the Center’s upcoming Spring Learning Institute planned April 29, 2011 where Todd Zakrajsek will be holding a workshop on Universal Design and presenting his keynote presentation, "Overcoming Apathy and Creating Excitement in the Classroom," and in the afternoon, Allison Bernknopf will be holding a workhop on active learning in large classrooms, and a panel of three faculty who teach fully online and receive very positive student feedback will be prepared to discuss challenges and learning issues regarding the online course experience.

Bea Cooper-Griffith was very happy to talk about the Quality Course Framework initiative for online and blended course offerings. The Quality Course Framework is an evolving initiative at FSU designed to address the shared concern of online course quality. The need initially emerged out of the first “Big Tent” meeting. As a result, the FCTL developed a seven-week blended workshop piloted in the 2010 Spring semester now in its second year. Faculty members who participate learn how to design a course to the standards of the Quality Matters Rubric - a nationally recognized standard for online course development. (http://www.qmprogram.org/) From this group of faculty Bea is growing a users group that helps coach their colleagues and share ideas for online teaching. She is also working on making examples of quality course elements available through development of videos and other resources that will assist faculty in this important area.

Robbie Teahen was very proud of the preparations that have been done toward the upcoming April 18, 19, 20, 2011 accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission. The many preparations for this visit have made a wonderful and positive impact towards transparency and inclusion for Ferris, as well as offered a good opportunity to review our internal policies and procedures. Maureen Milzarski and Carol Quigley have been actively engaged in the preparations for the upcoming HLC visit.
Larry Wells was very pleased to say that the visiting Michigan Department of Education team report states that the Charter Schools produce evidence of effective oversight. The visiting team gave Charter Schools a good report and good feedback after their recent visit. Larry was also pleased to discuss the Cyber Schools initiative, where 400 students are enrolled and the plan for 600 additional students to enroll in the second year for a total of 1000 students, half of which will be former dropouts. Charter Schools plan to offer this in the Detroit area. He was also happy to talk about collaborative efforts between Charter Schools and the College of Education and Human Services which resulted in a Summer Education Academy Camp to be offered this summer. He also announced an initiative regarding continuing improvement process in the review of charter schools to enable them to continue toward their goal of “raising the bar” in their academic offerings.

Rebecca Shankland was happy to discuss implementation of assessment/achievement processes (AAP) at the Charter Schools Office (CSO), which is in place to assist academies to better achieve their goals. The CSO has contracted with The National Charter Schools Institute to conduct external reviews of the identified low performing Academies. The purpose of the external review is to make an analysis of the Academies’ potential for viability. She was also happy to announce that the Benton Harbor Charter School, which at an earlier period was considered for closure due to failing to meet contractual goals, has risen to be one of the top four charter schools. She also noted that Benton Harbor Charter School changed their school’s academic culture and this helped with their remarkable achievement. Rebecca also discussed the “Explorer Plan,” which provides assessment to 7th and 8th graders prior to taking their ACT tests. This assessment helps them plan for their future educational goals.

Carol Quigley discussed community college and FSU articulation processes and noted that she has been very successful in keeping continuity and lines of communication open between community college leaders and Ferris faculty, heads, coordinators and educational counselors. She was happy that the Articulation Website, that she had designed and implemented a few years earlier in its entirety, continues to be a model of "best practices" across the state, nation, and beyond. She is happy to be involved in a task group working on matters related to improving transfer processes and is excited to be reviewing a new transfer center concept. She is also pleased to be deeply involved in developing a more cohesive transfer culture at Ferris. She also discussed a great opportunity for those returning from military service to take online courses.

Gretchen Spedowske was happy to report the processing of articulation agreements between Ferris and over 144 high schools and career centers across Michigan. She also outlined the processes in place for high school students to receive direct credit. She also spoke about how she is involved in helping to streamline international articulation agreements, organization of specialized college accreditation agencies, what she is doing to help work on raising enrollment of students in the TIP program and her involvement in assisting to reorganize the Grants Office. She discussed the recent Academic Excellence reception to which 1,300 students were invited to recognize their academic achievements, as well as the Faculty Recognition reception scheduled at a time where staff can also attend to help celebrate their faculty’s achievements.
Kim Wilber discussed the new Academic Affairs budget model that has been implemented this fiscal year. She was happy to report that she and Provost Erickson have given a budget presentation to every college to show them how the Ferris budget process works. She has also spearheaded an outreach effort to give new deans the information they need. She was also happy to announce that she has been working on an initiative to streamline the summer PAF processes by eliminating some of the faculty summer PAF forms and replacing them with spreadsheets. This process will cut down on human error and save much valuable time. She is also happy to report she is working on an initiative in the use of Skype for campus meetings that would be also especially helpful for interactive Banner sessions with deans’ office staff members.

Robin Hoisington noted that one of Provost Erickson’s goals this year is to meet with all faculty in their department meetings throughout the academic year. She has been successful in facilitating the schedule of these meetings and was happy to note that this goal should be met by the end of this academic year. She has also been successful in pulling in and organizing all of the bits and pieces of her job tasks this year.