DAVID BAKER – DAGD

Began by talking about Digital Animation and Game Design and talking about the background of the program and what the goals are for students.

Very strong freshman class coming in – 180 applicants to program – 50 or 60 students that committed. Economy is better so applications were down. However, there are still four months to go in recruiting cycle. Digital Animation gets a lot of support from Marketing and faculty. They are starting to get a statewide reputation, one of top programs in the state. The DAGD program began collaborations with community colleges – Muskegon Community College, Lansing Community College and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Possibly starting to hold classes inside a major studio. Helpful to serve community colleges like Oakland and Schoolcraft. Graduates and alumni getting high profile work. Have had over 60 graduates. Tony Trudeau, 2008 graduate, is the art director for Zynga. Andrew Smith just accepted a job at University of Michigan (this was in campus-wide good news), started out with virtual soldier program. He also mentored students. Brian Clark working for Playdom, bought out by Disney over the past summer. Brian came back to GR in the fall and talked to the students.

Michigan Film Bill has been very effective. Ferris has two students working for an effects company in Traverse City that is doing Hollywood productions. Those students are: Brandon Phillips and Robert VanderStealth (not sure on spelling). Brandon is already a supervisor with people working under him to develop stuff.

Local start up studio that has had great success. National contracts for high profile people. Continuing professionalism. Professional events that we’re having, such as Brian Clark event. Don Hahn, producer at Disney (Lion King and number of other productions). He started out as an animator. Don Hahn will be here next week, March 30, to talk students for a creativity seminar.

David and Marty Lier went to Game Developers Conference in San Francisco. Something they do every year. Get a feeling for where industry is really going. Mobile is 40% of technology now. Five years ago it was a very small thing and thought that it wouldn’t ever take off.

This Friday DAGD is having an advising event. Advising them to get them into classes and get them full now instead of waiting until August. Students enjoy it because it gives them a real connection with the college. It also makes the parents feel more comfortable and that their student has made the right decision.
Summer camps have been great since developed in 2006. There have been 40-50 campers each week. The majority of them that went to the first week, came back for the second week. About 30% of the students that attend camp end up applying and ultimately going to Ferris. Instructors – Justin and Jennifer Plowman – were able to create a scholarship program.

The DAGD program went through program review last year. The committee suggested that they continue on with what they’re doing. Very excited about what is going on.

JOSH FREENEY – DAGD

Mobile gaming quick and easy – student in programming one took a game that he developed in first class and threw it on Xbox live and had reviews that talked about how bad the game was.

MARTY LIER – DAGD

Internships are going really well. Visited Lucas Film in San Francisco and there are two really good candidates that they are considering from Ferris.

BUNNITA OUWINGA – CJ INSTRUCTOR/ADVISOR

Bunnita is really excited about internships. Homeland Security taking a Ferris student as an intern, starting in May. Rockford State Police post is taking two students for complete ride-along. The internship is 216 hours, large commitment. One student graduating this spring, in second stage of interviews with Chicago Police Department. He is also in the running for a position at Palm Beach County in Florida. Bunnita has been at Ferris a year yesterday. Police officer for 12 years. Her dream is to work with people and putting them in the field. Putting quality people on the street makes her proud and she enjoys them coming back to tell her about their successes.

A widow, married to Earl James, former Lieutenant for Michigan State Police. He investigated a number of murders in Michigan that trickled out to US. He wrote a book about these investigations and she donated 300 of these books. She drove them down to Grand Rapids, got lost, and called the office in tears. Talked to Bill Foster, who figured out where she was and he went and got the books from her. Bunnita used books in her Ethics class last semester and indicated that if anybody is interested in reading the book, she still has some.

It is great to see so many successful students.

DEB WARWICK – STUDENT TEACHER PLACEMENT FOR GRAND RAPIDS

The largest class for student teachers was Fall Semester 2010, with 33 students. It looks like Fall 2011 is going to be large again. There are two articulations into new school districts. The
student teachers took first field trip to Bodies Revealed exhibit. They also went to see the THEM Exhibit.

Michigan does not have a lot of teaching jobs, but Ferris has had some teachers hired over the past year. We are starting to see more and more Big Rapids students because they want to come home to save money. Judy Elsey has talked to the students about resumes, etc.

DONNA EWIGLEBEN – COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Reaching out into the Latino Community. Monthly parent/student meetings at Hispanic Center. Collaboratively with GR office and Matt Cheney’s Office. Matt Cheney and Dr. Pilgrim are involved. Two days a week – summer learning program, eight weeks long. Career pathway information and college access component. Fifty to seventy students will visit the Big Rapids campus and stay in the dorm for two nights, working with Conference and Professional Services (CPS). An application was filed with Michigan Campus Compact that will allow us to hire bilingual person for office and target activities around College Access Network and network building. Support from University and Hispanic center. College Access Network increases certification and/or degrees by 50 or 60 percent. We have asked for a lot of technical assistance from communities. There are 32 communities with the access network.

Writing GEAR UP grant – targeting eight middle schools. This will give us the ability to track students from middle school to their first year of college. This is a collaborative effort by COEHS, Dr. Pilgrim and other offices. Innovative Grants to take to Muskegon County. Working on the RFP and will submit grant application after that.

CYNTHIA BLASZAK – ADMISSIONS OFFICER

Started working in office. Has been out visiting high school counselors to make them aware of program changes, they have updated information, summer camp programs and making sure they have DVD’s or whatever else they may need to help out there student. It’s nice to go out and visit people and get a chance to interact with them. The schools she visits have a very positive perception of Ferris. She is impressed by the collaboration between Big Rapids and Grand Rapids.

She had a student that she talked to that we were able to help out after being gone for several years. The student wanted to finish her bachelor’s degree so she could pursue her MBA. She was very excited to learn that she could finish up in minimal time in Grand Rapids. A lot of people are willing to pitch in to help our students.

ASHLEY MILTGEN – ADVANCEMENT

Focus on how off-site alumni are different than our other students. Some of them have never been to Big Rapids. Ashley is working with Jeremy Mishler to put something together for the off-campus alumni.
Working on finding dormant accounts with money in them that hasn’t been used and finding out how to use it effectively.

Ashley is also working on fundraising for Doctorate program. She will be going to New Orleans in April to work on fundraising.

JUDY ELSEY – MANAGER CAREER SERVICES

Connecting people continuously and connects them with jobs, etc. Judy works with students, advisors, faculty and a lot of people throughout the state. Able to work from the office and do a lot of things virtually. Has begun working with Bulldog Career Link. About 5,000 employers on Career Link.

Began using Interview Stream that helps them with their interviewing skills. Helped the student teachers align themselves with the workforce. Helped students work with employers to create relationships with potential employers throughout the state. Also spends a lot of time helping students make themselves presentable on paper. Just had a student she helped last week and she worked with him to update it and within a day or two, he had an interview with Homeland Security. Career Services is a tremendous service that we offer to our students. She has also done a lot of mock interviewing with students. Students are getting good jobs and it shows that Career Services is doing a good job. Internships are very important on all levels.

Judy worked with Miranda for a lot of the events throughout the past year.

LAURA McKINESS – FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST

Gets to see the student increases by the amount of traffic and phone calls that come into the office. The Marketing team is doing a great job. Despite turnover in staff, we continue to work together and grow. It is an exciting time to be in higher education and GR specifically. The success is because of the work of a great team. Different student body than in BR. Adjusting to the needs of the student body in Grand Rapids. Has gotten to know a lot of the students by face and name and they know Laura too. Even though our numbers are growing, we have the small office mentality.

Donna Ewigleben noted that Jill Baylis, our newest employee, said she likes coming to work and that she feels like she is part of a family. The team works well together and makes everybody feel welcome.

AMANDA MITCHELL – STUDENT SERVICES REP (REGISTRATION)

Has been at Ferris for six years and seen a large amount of growth. Criminal Justice is the largest. Has also worked to get more girls to join Digital Animation. Several new rotations starting up this fall. Degree audits for Construction students. Registration is tricky when
working with non-traditional students. Adult students worry about things differently than traditional students work, so learning how to deal with each group is vital.

Amanda does tours of campuses, works with orientation and the different kickoff events. We all get to learn in spite of the students, but they also teach us things if we are willing to learn.

Amanda also is the Business Office person. She does a lot of work with Employee Tuition Reimbursement (ETR). There are 190 students in this program. It has gotten bigger each semester. It has been one of our most successful endeavors. Spectrum Health and Munson Health are two of the biggest participants in the ETR program.

ANGELA MORRIS – MARKETING COORDINATOR

Our Open Houses have been very successful. Our spring one had over 200 attendees and that is usually the smaller of the two. In September they had the first Open House in Dowagiac and over 100 people attended. In February, an Open House was held in Traverse City, over 100 people there as well. Delta has an Open House coming up in April and Angela is working to help get ready for that.

LINDSAY YOUNG – FINANCIAL AID COORDINATOR

Has taken over Lansing campus and is working to take over Muskegon campus. Big Rapids financial aid office is swamped. She has made some great connections and has good relationships with Big Rapids and Kendall. It is fast-paced and crazy most of the time. Working on verification and will be serving on scholarship committees.

MARY DILLEY – GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Mary feels fortunate to work with all of the sites across the state. When we first merged it didn’t feel like we were all on the same team. It has gotten better every year and we have started to feel like one large family. It makes a big difference when the feeling of family is there.

The Marketing team has developed “Open House Tool Kits” to help each site get ready for their Open House. These were things that had worked very well in Grand Rapids and they were expanded to the other sites and they were extremely successful.

Don – thanks to all of you. The number of students that we touch is amazing. A lot of the students we touch ultimately end up going elsewhere because we’ve advised them to go elsewhere to be better served. People travel a lot of miles around the state to make sure everything runs smooth and that we are successful.
We have worked to change the perception of where Ferris is. They realize that it isn’t just located in Big Rapids, but several years ago, that was the only place people thought of when Ferris was mentioned.