Leadership Session, 11:00 AM
Dr. David Eisler, President
Dr. Fritz Erickson, Provost
Dr. Michael Cron, Dean
Dr. Robert Buckingham, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
Marsha McDaniels, Administrative Secretary to the Dean

MCO, with the support of many from all across campus, completed a monumental move from Pennock Hall to the new facility in a two-week period.

The University Eye Center just had its most profitable February in its history. The number of patients increased by 10%, with revenue increasing by 40%.

University Eye Center has different programs to help indigent patients purchase glasses and receive eye care at a vastly reduced rate.

University Eye Center is able to provide a significantly higher level of patient care in the new facility with new testing areas and equipment and more space, especially in the specialty areas of low vision, vision therapy and pediatric optometry.

MCO developed two new accredited residencies last year, with another VA-based residency coming on board next year.

Forty percent of MCO students apply for and are matched for post-graduate optometric residencies, which is twice the national average; this is an excellent indicator of the quality of clinical education received at MCO.

MCO grads have always had a 100% placement rate, and do have a variety of options available to them as optometrists (VA or military hospitals, corporate optometry, private practice, either their own or by joining an existing practice).

While the new building has allowed us to serve patients much more efficiently, the UEC staff lost five people to ERIPs last year; they have performed admirably under less then optimum staffing and an increased patient load.

An increased visibility for MCO has already increased the number of local patients and we believe that trend will continue on a wider scale as MCO is recognized as a major optometric healthcare provider in Michigan. There are eye care tests and procedures and resources at MCO that are available very few other places in the state.
MCO’s off-campus activities have increased significantly in the past two years. The school-based clinic in White Cloud has been very successful, and the patient load at the Baldwin Family Health Care satellite clinic continues to increase. Community health initiatives continue to be an important part of MCO’s mission.

There may be a tremendous opportunity for grant funding in the area of correlating student performance and behavior in school with undiagnosed vision problems. Screening programs at schools are more geared toward detecting vision acuity, and other conditions may not be diagnosed.

Marsha McDaniels spoke about the collective effort on the part of not only MCO people but people all over the FSU campus who helped make the move out of Pennock Hall and into the new building within a very short window of time. It was truly a team effort and couldn’t have been accomplished without the assistance of many, many FSU people.

Marsha McDaniels said that Mary Gallagher-Eustice from FLITE has taken it upon herself to re-assemble the MCO library. MCO’s librarian retired last year and no one here has the expertise to organize and catalog all of the resources, so Mary volunteered her own time and the time of some of her workstudy students to make our library useful again.

**Faculty/Staff Session, 12:15 PM**

Lisa Roach has become the unofficial “eyeglasses contact” for Brookside Elementary School, and was recently able to obtain new glasses for two students who desperately needed them.

Dr. Bruce Morgan reported that our new building is a huge recruiting tool for students and has allowed us to compete directly with the larger and/or newer schools.

Dr. Jim Miller added that we hosted an open house at MCO during the Honors Invitational this year; in the past we have avoided bringing these students to our facility.

Dr. Josh Lotoczky added that he had recently visited the newest optometry school in Arizona, and is proud to say that our building “blows theirs away.”

Dr. Renee Mika explained our satellite clinics in Baldwin and White Cloud. Our pediatric resident is providing direct eyecare to students in both of these districts, and we are also getting many referrals from these schools. Many of the students in these districts would not receive eyecare at all if not for this service.

Dr. Bruce Morgan was pleased to report that MCO brought two new accredited residencies on-line last year, with another one scheduled to begin next year.

Dr. Morgan is also pleased to report 40% of MCO graduates go on to complete a one-year post-graduate residency to increase their expertise in one of several specialty areas such as pediatrics and ocular disease. This is twice the national rate, and the matching process is very competitive. This is an excellent indicator of the quality of clinical education being provided by MCO.
Dr. Karen Kehbein reported that over 400 student athletes and over 200 Strategies students were screened this year to see if undiagnosed vision conditions could be contributing to their performance in the classroom and in their chosen sports. Fifty-five percent of developmental students have undiagnosed vision conditions which may be contributing to their poor school performance, so this is a significant initiative. Dr. Kehbein is working on a research project with a student to try to better measure this correlation, and the project will be presented at a national conference this spring.

Dr. Sarah Hinkley spoke about MCO’s long-standing relationship with the Michigan Commission for the Blind. MCO has partnered with MCB for many years to keep people working or get them back to work in spite of visual impairment.

Dr. Hinkley and MCO will be hosting a Low Vision Grand Rounds event next month. Optometrists from around the state have volunteered their time to precept students to give them practical experience working with low vision and blind patients. This activity is funded by Dr. Hinkley’s FSU Exceptional Merit Grant.

Dr. Josh Lotoczky explained the CooperVision Adopt-A-Patient program, whereby each MCO student can adopt one patient who can receive free contact lenses through CooperVision.

Dr. Dean Luplow talked about the Interprofessional Wellness Clinic at MCO, which is a collaborative effort among MCO, Nursing and Pharmacy to provide comprehensive care to diabetic patients. This is a unique program and is being used as a model for other schools and medical offices. We have a similar program at the St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Rapids which has become very successful.

Dr. Bob Buckingham reported that over 2,000 patients were seen by the group of doctors and students from Student Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH) who recently traveled to Mexico to provide eyecare to people, many of whom have never received any kind of eyecare in their lives. MCO’s SVOSH group has more volunteers than most of the larger schools have, and our groups participates in mission trips to other poor populations, such as the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Haiti.

Dr. Renee Mika spoke about the research being performed by Dr. Avesh Raghunandan to determine the visual potential of the eye. This research will be presented for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Much of this research has been funded by a Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness grant.

Dr. Mark Swan mentioned that about 80% of the MCO faculty serve on national committees; MCO is helping to direct the profession at a national level.