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To: [Archive](#); [Shelly L Armstrong](#)
Subject: Ferris Board Accepts Review of President, Extends Contract
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Attachments: [FSU President David Eisler.jpg](#)

Included below is a press release regarding the Ferris State University Board of Trustees' acceptance of a review of President David Eisler's performance, as well as an extension of his contract. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris Board of Trustees Accepts President Eisler's Performance Review, Extends Contract

Board Chair James K. Haveman Jr. Speaks Positively About Review's Process, Findings.

BIG RAPIDS – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees, led by Chairman James K. Haveman Jr., recently received and evaluated a comprehensive external performance review of President David L. Eisler's five years at the University. In accepting the review, the board also extended Eisler's contract.

"This external review was designed to complement the president's annual performance reviews conducted by the board," Haveman said. "Dr. John W. Moore, a recognized authority on presidential review in universities, was hired by the board to serve as the facilitator of this review process."

During the week of April 7, 2008, Moore visited the Big Rapids campus and interviewed a diverse cross-section of stakeholders both on and off campus. Nearly 100 people provided input or participated in this process through written comments.

After careful assessment of participants' comments and data provided by the University, Moore engaged the board of trustees and the president in a discussion of the observations and findings from his review. This took place in a manner that preserved the review participants' anonymity.

Summarizing the review's findings, Haveman stated, "Dr. Eisler, in the board's judgment, has proven himself to be a very effective president. Under his leadership, Ferris State University has become the fastest-growing public university in Michigan, nearly doubled its endowment, built strong relationships with its external communities and remained financially strong during a period of significant fund reductions from the state."

Haveman also noted that Eisler recently led the University through a strategic planning process which produced a new mission statement embodying an exciting and inclusive vision for its future.

“The board of trustees is most appreciative of, and strongly supports, President Eisler’s dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of the University,” he said. “We look forward to working with him for many years ahead to advance one of Michigan’s truly great and distinctive public universities.”

In accepting the review, the board of trustees extended the contract for Eisler through June 2013.

For 2008-09, the board of trustees set Eisler’s base salary at \$235,000 with a deferred annual compensation retention bonus of \$30,000, except for the year beginning March 1, 2011, when the bonus is scheduled to be \$50,000.

The Ferris board noted that successful college presidents are to be celebrated and supported. The trustees were pleased to finalize the continuity of leadership at Ferris, which is essential in maintaining the University’s forward momentum. As he enters his sixth year as president of Ferris State University, Eisler is sixth senior among Michigan’s 15 public university presidents.

Eisler expressed his thanks to the trustees for their continued support and to all who participated in the review. “The board of trustees’ evaluation and suggestions resulting from Dr. Moore’s review will help me strengthen Ferris State University and serve its diverse constituencies more effectively.”

Eisler further identified what he sees as some of the priorities he intends to pursue with the full support of the board of trustees, the academic community and the friends of the University. These include continuing to implement the University’s strategic plan and University-wide diversity plan; enhancing academic programs, and facilitating the success of students and faculty; advocating for the interests of Ferris and garnering the resources necessary to ensure its success; filling key acting positions within the University; securing capital outlay for a new Optometry building; and nurturing collegial relationships in the University’s systems of shared governance and collective bargaining.

“I am grateful for this review and have learned much from the process for continued personal growth and, more importantly, to the benefit of the University,” said President Eisler. “Many constructive and useful suggestions have been passed to me from members of the university community. I also appreciate the expressions of strong support that have been communicated through this process. It is an honor and privilege for me to serve as the president of Ferris State University.”

The board released news of the contract on the final day of a three-day planning session held prior to Ferris beginning classes for the fall semester.



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