

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 4, 2011

Higher Learning Commission

From April 18-20, the Ferris community will host a seven-member team from the Higher Learning Commission that will be conducting a continuing accreditation visit. Following their visit, the team will write a comprehensive report about the evidence they found supporting the University's contention that we meet, and often exceed, the accreditation standards.

Our University has worked for three years preparing for this visit, and we can be proud of the comprehensive, thoughtful self-study that has been produced. You can read the final version of the self-study at <http://www.ferris.edu/hlc/>.

Please take time to review the self-study, especially the areas most relevant to your work in preparation for the HLC team's visit. Some members of the visiting team will be arriving starting Saturday, April 16. We anticipate that they will tour the campus and the downtown community during the weekend prior to Monday's 8 a.m. start of our continuing accreditation visit. Their on-campus work space will be in the IRC. The link above also has a team visit schedule.

Lotus Notes invitations will be sent to members of specific groups. Everyone is invited to attend open sessions for faculty, students, clerical personnel and others. You are encouraged to look for times when you can share your Ferris stories either during specific group meetings or in the open forums. University-wide Notices will be sent announcing the times and locations.

This is a great opportunity for Ferris to share the many great things that happen on our campus. Please help with this very important step in the University's reaccreditation.

Share Your Success

Last week Provost Fritz Erickson continued our annual series of Share Your Success sessions in University colleges and divisions. Here are a few of the highlights that faculty and staff shared during these sessions:

Michigan College of Optometry

- Marsha McDaniels spoke about the collective effort on the part of not only the MCO faculty and staff, but staff from across the University who helped make possible the move out of Pennock Hall and into the new building within a very short window of time.
- Dr. Bruce Morgan was pleased that MCO brought two new accredited residencies on-line last year, with another one scheduled to begin next year.
- Dr. Renee Mika discussed our satellite clinics in Baldwin and White Cloud. Our pediatric resident provides direct eye care to students in these districts, many of whom would not receive such care at all if not for this service.

- Dr. Karen Kehbein reported that more than 400 student-athletes and more than 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.
- Dr. Sarah Hinkley and the MCO will be hosting a Low Vision Grand Rounds event next month. Optometrists from around the state have volunteered to precept students, giving them practical experience working with low vision and blind patients.
- 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.
- Dr. Bob Buckingham reported that more than 2,000 underserved patients were seen by the group of doctors and students from Student Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity who recently traveled to Mexico.
- Dr. Mark Swan mentioned that about 80 percent of the MCO faculty members serve on national professional committees.
- The University Eye Center had its most profitable February in its history, with the number of patients increasing by 10 percent, and revenue increasing by 40 percent. The center has programs to help indigent patients purchase glasses and receive eye care at a reduced rate.

College of Education and Human Services

- Mischelle Stone will be teaching the first fully on-line introduction class for Criminal Justice this summer. Additionally, she completed a Drug Court training sponsored by the National Council of Drug Court professionals.
- Charles Bron stated that 20 new ROTC students have been recruited for Fall 2011.
- Approximately 47 percent of the COEHS graduates in Fall 2010 received honors.
- Kitty Manley is Project Director of the \$1.4 million Michigan Center for Career and Technical Education grant funded by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education.
- Russ Lewis reported that the \$400,000 Criminal Justice Juvenile County Grant helps prevent delinquency by holding juvenile justice nights for students in the Tustin, Pine River, Baldwin and Evert areas.
- Liza Ing stated that the ProMoTEd program is growing. There will be eight to ten students going through graduation in May and five of the students have entered the Masters program.
- Diane Fleming reported that four School of Education faculty are working with the Michigan Department of Education to critique other university programs in preparation of program approval. Diane is working with Saginaw Valley State University.
- Nancy Lashaway-Bokina stated that the Education Exploration will be held on April 15, 2011 in Wink Arena.
- Connie Morcom, in partnership with Arts and Sciences, has taken students on study abroad trips to London and Paris.
- Larry Wells and Paul Blake visited more than eighteen charter schools to discuss the possibility of their students attending Summer Academy Camp to be held June 13-25.

College of Allied Health

- The college is experiencing unprecedented growth. The college has a unique application process and allows for open admissions with all students receiving the same consideration when they apply.
- Students are active in RSO and community service/political engagement projects. Dental Hygiene will be treating patients at Metron and Head Start. Nuclear Medicine students visit local elementary schools to teach them about the human skeletal system.
- This fall the Molecular Diagnostics program will begin with a new lab being set up at Grand Rapids.
- A new minor in Medical Informatics is available in collaboration with the College of Business.
- Currently there are 480 online BSN students with new cohorts in Traverse City and Greenville. Total enrollment in all Nursing programs is 702, one of the largest programs on campus.
- The Nursing program is in the process of setting up an interactive Simulation Lab, including birthing, infant, pediatrics and trauma/ER triage stations that can be used by all disciplines within the college.
- The college is hosting a “Best Practices Day” on April 21. Faculty and staff will be showcasing topics of interest. The keynote speaker will be Dr. James Therrell.

These are but just a few examples of the many successes shared in these sessions. I encourage you to take a few moments and view the many successes of your colleagues at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/sharesuccess2011.htm>

My next UWM will include Share Your Success highlights from already-completed sessions with the FLITE library, College of Engineering and Technology, Academic Affairs, and the Executive Division. Share your Success sessions with University Advancement and Marketing are scheduled for Thursday, 1:30-4 p.m.

Review of Jerry Scoby

This semester I am continuing an approach began last year for the review of vice presidents that includes the opportunity for input from individuals throughout the University. I recently reviewed Vice President for Administration and Finance Jerry Scoby. In addition to the materials submitted by Mr. Scoby and two extended sessions with him, I interviewed 64 people, including faculty, staff and other members of the University community, and received additional comments via email and letter.

It is very encouraging for me to see how willing members of our University community were to engage in this process and share their perceptions. I want to thank the many individuals who participated in this review of Vice President Scoby for their assistance and interest in the welfare of Ferris State University.

After careful assessment of this input and related materials, I am pleased to report this review confirmed that Mr. Scoby is perceived as a strong, effective vice president. Among his many successful efforts, frequently noted were his work with significant building projects, his interactive

“Ask the VP sessions,” his invaluable financial management during challenging fiscal times, his embracing of both the Ferris and Big Rapids communities, and his caring approach to working with others. As he leads Administration and Finance, Mr. Scoby is encouraged to continue to build strong working relationships for Administration and Finance and to increase understanding and appreciation for its work throughout the University.

In our conversations, Mr. Scoby has shared with me his appreciation for this review and for what he has learned from it. He expressed to me how much he appreciated the strong support that has been communicated for him through this review. My thanks to everyone who took part in the process.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President