

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
October 25, 2010

Academic Structure Review

Last week, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Fritz Erickson sent a University-wide message about beginning a discussion regarding academic structure. His message is available here: <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/news/academic-structure.pdf>. Fritz noted that we currently have four degree-granting colleges plus the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education operating with interim leadership. Provost Erickson announced he will visit with each college, and has invited me to join him. He will be eliciting your thoughts on how best to review our academic structure and wants to hear your insights regarding issues that would be involved in this discussion. Like Dr. Erickson I encourage you to be involved in this effort. I hope you can join us at one of these scheduled meetings:

Thursday, Oct. 28

College of Allied Health, 2-3 p.m., VHS 103

Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education, 3:30-4:30 p.m., FLITE 442

Friday, Oct. 29

College of Business, 8-9 a.m., BUS 211

Michigan College of Optometry, Noon-1 p.m., PEN 116

Monday, Nov. 1

College of Education and Human Services, 8:30-9:30 a.m., BIS 603

College of Engineering Technology, Noon-1 p.m., NEC 203

Tuesday, Nov. 2

College of Pharmacy, 1-2 p.m., PHR 201

University College, 2:30-3:30 p.m., STR 234

Tuesday, Nov. 30

College of Arts and Sciences, 11-11:50 a.m., SCI 126

College of Professional and Technological Studies, 1:30-2:30 p.m., ALU 109

MyDegree

Last week we launched the new MyDegree software, designed to help students more efficiently understand and fulfill degree curriculum requirements. This add-on to the Banner system provides web-based degree advising and auditing to students and advisors, as well as articulation tools to help transfer students make the transition to Ferris as seamless as possible.

This portal to class schedules, help desk information and many other services, is a tool to assist students in pursuing the most direct path to a degree. It provides students with accurate and consistent information about graduation requirements and is available 24/7. It can help students make certain they take those classes most beneficial to their pursuit of a degree.

A project of this scope requires much teamwork. Bill Potter chaired the task force that selected this software for the University. Project Leader Kathy Fisher coordinated the many different aspects of the project's implementation. Educational Counselor Lynnae Selberg took a

lead role in acting as a liaison to assure the accuracy of MyDegree's academic content. Information Systems Analyst Jim Lindsey assisted with scribing the requirements for each program major. Project Sponsor Dan Burcham lent his wealth of institutional experience to make this student-friendly resource a reality. Other project members whose work was equally vital to this initiative are Sandy Balkema, Deb Cox, Cheryl Cluchey, Vicky Deur, Don Flickinger, Bruce Gilchrist, Marie Gillespie, Lori Henderson, Rick Manuszak and Dave Steffens.

Election 2010

Last Tuesday evening political reporter Tim Skubick visited the Big Rapids campus. Part of the purpose of his appearance was to raise awareness of election issues. He asked those in attendance to name the candidates for secretary of state, attorney general and the state supreme court. Not many in attendance could do so. With Election Day on Nov. 2nd, if you have not done so already, I encourage you to spend time learning about these candidates before heading to the voting booth. The nonpartisan group, The League of Women Voters of Michigan, has comprehensive voter guides with responses from the candidates available online at <http://www.lwvmi.org>.

Tim Skubick's visit was sponsored by the *Pioneer*, the *Torch*, the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce, and our own Political Engagement Project (PEP). Ferris is a national leader in political engagement. As part of election awareness, PEP has scheduled a public speaking contest on "Voting Issues for 2010" this week. The finals of this competition are scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in IRC 120.

Closing Thoughts

The Ferris Foundation's annual benefit will take place on Friday, Nov. 5, at the JW Marriott in downtown Grand Rapids, starting with a reception at 5:30 p.m., and continuing with dinner and a program. The program will feature the many faces and successes of our University. The Ferris Foundation supports students, staff and faculty members through Foundation for Excellence Scholarships, Exceptional Merit Grants and other initiatives. Tickets for the black tie preferred evening are \$250 and available by calling Kim Erickson at 591-2365. More information is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/news/News.cfm?AnnouncementID=1240&CatID=1>.

Perhaps you have seen the tombstones placed on the quad of the Big Rapids campus. These bring attention to victims of domestic violence and remind us that this is a problem far too many people face today. Tonight at 5:30 p.m. we will gather on the Quad for the annual "Take Back the Night" rally and march to bring awareness to and to fight against domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. Information on this evening's activities is here - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/news/News.cfm?AnnouncementID=1242&CatID=1>.

We have now completed one fourth of the academic year. It is important to acknowledge the many achievements resulting from the hard work of students, faculty and staff. The latest Good News items, including major collections donated to the Jim Crow Museum, are available online at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/GoodNews/GN100610.pdf>.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President