

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 11, 2010

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## Higher Learning Commission

If you have not done so already, I want to encourage you to take time to read the self-study document prepared for the Higher Learning Commission visit. While the team will not be on campus until April 18-21, this is the time when the document is undergoing significant review. At Ferris we are fortunate to have a steering committee heading this project that is actively seeking your comments on this document. To date they have held 26 focus group sessions, with two additional opportunities scheduled later this semester. The current draft of the self study is accessible here - <http://www.ferris.edu/hlc/report-draft9-27.pdf> .

Our University began preparation for the HLC review in the fall of 2007. Many faculty and staff have contributed to this document through an iterative process. I want to thank the members of the steering committee who have worked so very hard on this project - Sandy Balkema, Paul Blake, Jeff Boochard, Rick Christner, Cheryl Cluchey, Steve Durst, Oliver Evans, Abdollah Ferdowsi, Rick Griffin, Doug Haneline, Jennifer Hegenauer, Melinda Isler, Michelle Johnston, Katherine Manley, Ron McKean, Carol Quigley, Kristen Salmonson, Wendy Samuels, Max Shangle, Robbie Teahen and Sueann Walz. The steering committee is ably co-chaired by Chris Vonder Haar and Mike Cairns. The writer/editor for the self study is Sandy Balkema, and Associate Provost Teahen has provided perspective from her extensive experience with the HLC.

Re-accreditation is very important to Ferris State University, not only for the opportunity to evaluate our institution against national standards, but also because of the chance it provides to learn and improve from this external review. As this process moves forward, I hope you will continue to contribute your time and insights.

In an effort to keep the entire campus informed and involved, the HLC steering committee is sponsoring a video competition for current students to produce work that will help educate the Ferris community about the upcoming HLC site visit. More information about the video competition, FAQs about the process and other information is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/hlc/index.htm> . Send any comments or suggestions to [hlselfstudy@ferris.edu](mailto:hlselfstudy@ferris.edu) .

## Homecoming

Autumn colors, above average temperatures and clear skies combined to form a beautiful backdrop for this year's Homecoming festivities. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastically students and staff embraced the "60s" theme of this year's annual event. To view some of the many student activities last week and how your colleagues might have looked in the 60's, visit the Week in Pictures feature on the Ferris home page.

As in previous years, we had many alumni return to campus. It is always a pleasure to meet and get re-acquainted with our graduates from across the decades. The new construction taking place or recently completed, combined with our Physical Plant employees' remarkable upkeep of campus, made a great impression on our visitors. As always, the parade through downtown Big Rapids was very well attended. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who participated in our homecoming activities. Congratulations to our football team for their 23-10 victory over University of Findlay, extending their winning streak to five games. My thanks to everyone who helped make our campus a welcoming place not only for our alumni, but our current students as well.

The Homecoming football victory was just one part of what was a very good week for Ferris athletic teams. Our men's golf squad captured the GLIAC conference championship with a playoff victory over Wayne State. Congratulations to them and coach Mike Mignano. This weekend our volleyball team defeated Lake Erie and Ashland. Our women's tennis team defeated Lake Erie and Ohio Dominican and our women's soccer team defeated Saginaw Valley and Northwood. Men's ice hockey split two games with the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

### **Tentative Faculty Agreement**

This past week the University administration and the Ferris Faculty Association reached a tentative contract agreement. The agreement will still need to be ratified by the FFA membership and approved by the Board of Trustees before it takes affect. This is a three-year pact that will help provide stability through 2013 as we continue to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

Reaching this accord was a long process – one which extended beyond the end of the previous contract and the beginning of fall semester. I want to thank our faculty members for maintaining their focus on our students and their education during the negotiations.

### **ArtPrize**

For the past two weeks Grand Rapids has been alive with all the excitement of the second ArtPrize competition. If you have not seen it, the north face of the Kendall College of Art and Design building now has a seven-story mural painted by Jeff Zimmerman. This work was included in the video report that aired on Thursday morning's NBC "Today Show" - <http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/artprize/ArtPrize-featured-on-%27Today-Show%27> .

If you have not seen the mural in person, take time to see it when you have the opportunity to do so soon.

### **International Education Week**

Finally, this week there will be a series of events and activities organized by the Office of International Education. Tuesday, Oct. 12, is an especially busy day with events including "Russia: Past, Present, and Future," a Critical Encounters series lecture by Dr. Yuri Maltsev, former economic advisor to Mikhail Gorbachev, in Business Building Room 111, 11 a.m. to noon; a small

group discussion on Foreign Services with Dale Rumsbarger, recruiter from the U.S. State Department, 5 p.m. in FLITE 133; and a reception for visiting faculty members from Thailand University, 7 p.m. in FLITE 240 (for faculty and staff members only). On Friday OEI is hosting its “One World, Many Faces” benefit dinner, 7-9 p.m. in the Granger Building, to raise funds to be used to help local school teachers study abroad through Ferris. You can purchase tickets by clicking on “International Benefit Dinner” under the “More News” section of the Ferris home page. Also, check the Campus Calendar for more International Week events.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President