

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
June 28, 2010

State Budget

This has been an interesting week in Lansing, where I continue to work with other university presidents to prevent the passage of a bill permitting community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. The good news here is that our efforts, centered on a pledge by all 15 public universities to work with community colleges to meet these needs, is meeting with a positive response. The bill, passage of which in the House seemed a foregone conclusion earlier this spring, now appears delayed at least through the summer.

It was while we were meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop that we learned the United States Senate had not passed the bill extending jobless benefits and providing additional stimulus dollars for states to deal with Medicaid costs. The proposed state budget for Michigan in both our House and Senate was predicated on \$514 million from this bill, which has now not been approved. It is uncertain at this time what the next steps in Washington will be: passage of a bill with similar support, a new bill with reduced support, or no bill. Given the growing concerns about the size of national deficit, less support and more reductions at the state level seem likely. It is now a near certainty that passage of the state budget will be delayed, perhaps until September.

The legislature is not scheduled to meet the first two weeks of July and then only Wednesdays for the remainder of the month. The August primaries will then be upon us and strong action on the budget is unlikely until later. I will continue to update you as more information is available.

Retiring Employees

While summer is always an exciting time with groups of entering students on campus for orientation sessions, and many younger students for our camp programs, this summer is more bittersweet than usual as we bid farewell to a significant number of retiring employees. On behalf of the entire University, I want to thank our retirees for their years of service and wish them the best as they embrace new opportunities in their lives.

The departure of our valued colleagues means new challenges for the Ferris community. In many cases, these departures mean that individual employees will be tasked with accepting extra duties during this time of tight budgets, while as an institution we are losing many collective years of memory and experience. Our growth over the past few years is a testament to the work of our entire University community. So in addition to the thanks extended to those retiring, I want also to thank those who will be shouldering additional responsibilities.

I am including here a list of those whose have retired, or have informed the University of their retirement, so far in 2010. My hope is that this is a comprehensive and inclusive list. If not, my apologies to anyone who may have been overlooked. I believe it is important to recognize the contributions of those who have helped advance Ferris State University, so please join me in celebrating those who have been such a part of our strength.

Cindy Adolf, Frances Allegretto, Kay Anderson, Stephen Arndt, Madalyn Bartkowiak, Judy Becker, Jean Bennett, Terri Bloomquist, Pamela Borstler, James Brown, Susan Brown, Connie Buffin, Carma Burcham, William Carpenter, Doris Coby, William Conrad, Brenda Cook, Mary Cook, Thomas Crandell, Keith Cripe, Susan Cross, Willard Duran, Gordon Erler, Dennis Finney, Mary Forintos, Gary Gawne, Helen Gilders, Barbara Gilmore, Joanne Gerst, Edward Green, Ronald Greenfield, Valerie Greenfield, Robert Groh, Roberta Grow, MaryAnne Guenther, Richard Hansen, Lucinda Jackson, Rosalyn Jorgensen, Christine Kamen, Judith Keith, Richard King, Thomas Kirinovic, Matthew Klein, Roy Lane, Katherine Latham, Linda Littke, Robert Lumsden, Mary Main, Ian Mathison, Judith Mitchell, Johnnie Mohr, Sue Mumby, Betty Nelson, Vordyn Nelson, Deborah Obert, Thomas Oldfield, John Pasquantonio, Nancy Peterson-Klein, Linda Powell, Julia Quillan, David Remus, Barbara Rice, Cynthia Roberts, Barbara Ross, Brenda Rouhan, Yvonne Seiter, Mary Shattuck, Robert Sheardy, Richard Spedowske, Virginia Spedowski, David Steeno, Mary Steeno, Larry Stephan, Shirley Sundell, Allen Tetsworth, Phillip Tetsworth, Yvonne Thebo, Linda Tingley, Michael Toles, Betty Traynor, Jean Vallier, Richard Van Horn, James Walker, Mark Walton, Sandra Werner, Randy Wheeler, Alan Williams, Rex Wiseman, and Glenn Zobel.

I am saddened at seeing so many wonderful, experienced professionals complete their Ferris careers. At the same time I wish them both health and happiness as they enter this next stage in their lives. As you see these remarkable people on campus and in our community, please join me in thanking them for their many contributions to Ferris State University and the generations of students they have helped.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President