

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 22, 2010

New Tenured Faculty

Twenty-one members of the faculty recently were reviewed, recommended for and granted tenure. Tenure is a significant achievement by these faculty and represents a lasting commitment by our University. Our most recent group of tenured faculty is comprised of -

Robert Aamoth, Engineering Technology
Catherine Arroe, Arts and Sciences
David Borck, Engineering Technology
Christine Conley-Sowels, Education and Human Services
Debra Courtright-Nash, Arts and Sciences
Patrick English, Engineering Technology
Frederick Ennis, Education and Human Services
Bradley Isler, Arts and Sciences
John Kantorowski, Engineering Technology
Paul Klatt, Arts and Sciences
Sonya Knoll, Allied Health Sciences
Ho Lee, Pharmacy
Joseph Lipar, Arts and Sciences
Suzanne Miller, Engineering Technology
Hikaru Murata, Education and Human Services
Fran Rosen, FLITE
Joseph Pacella, Engineering Technology
Jana Pisani, Arts and Sciences
Piram Prakasam, Arts and Sciences
Sarah Raguckas, Pharmacy
Lisa Wall, Allied Health Sciences

I can remember when these faculty members joined our University and am very pleased to see them reach this career milestone. Congratulations to each of them for this recognition of their dedication to their professional responsibilities, academic and community service, and professional development.

Retirement Changes for MPSERS

Recently, the Michigan State House and Senate introduced legislation to implement Governor Granholm's Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System (MSPERS) reforms. If passed, this legislation would impact Ferris employees, primarily those who joined our faculty or staff before 1996.

The proposed reforms would control costs by limiting benefits to MPSERS members who retire from the University after Oct. 1, 2010.

Major points of the plan include -

- Increased employee contributions beginning Oct. 1. Basic plan employees would contribute 3 percent of their salary, up from no contribution. Current Member Investment Plan employees would contribute between 6.9 to 7.3 percent.
- Capping years of service in the system to 30 years for employees retiring after Oct. 1. Current employees with more than 30 years would be capped at their present level. Beyond the cap, employer/employee contributions would go into a defined contribution plan.
- Eliminating retiree dental/vision coverage. Retirees would be able to enroll at their own expense.
- Introducing a phased retirement option. Retirees aged 60 or older would have the option, at the employer's discretion, to draw a pension while working part time.

These proposed reforms are another sign of the challenges that face both employers and employees in these very difficult economic times as health care costs continue to rise faster than the rate of overall inflation. The State Budget Office projects net savings from these proposed reforms of nearly \$6.4 billion over ten years. The SBO has written an issue paper outlining the proposed changes in greater detail. That paper can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/orsschools/MPSEERSReforms_310724_7.pdf. If you want additional information, please contact our Human Resource office at x2150.

Share Your Success

Provost Fritz Erickson and I are in the process of meeting with each college's faculty and staff in a series of "Share Your Success" sessions. These are intended to provide you the opportunity to share good news and accomplishments. Through this we can understand better the good work that you are doing at Ferris and the difference it makes for our students, academic programs and efforts. The first Share Your Success session involved the College of Education and Human Services. Some of what we heard included the following-

- The College has honored Helen Ferris during our 125th anniversary year by featuring her in publications, communications and more.
- The Criminal Justice program is expanding through offerings at Oakland Community College; also, the program has registered 330 interns for this coming summer.
- Television and Digital Media Production is hosting their annual festival for high school students.
- There is a cohort of more than 20 Elementary Education students ready for the new Mathematics minor at Lansing Community College for Fall 2010 and a second group of 20 for Fall 2011. LCC is excited to be working with Ferris on this program and COEHS appreciates the good cooperation of Mathematics faculty.
- Using a Timme Grant, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Mischelle Stone presented on service learning at Coastal Academic Service Learning Conference. She also presented in San Diego regarding bar bouncers and how they could be trained to identify risks for date rape, drugging drinks, etc. She is in the final stages of signing a contract for a book to be made of her dissertation on bounty hunters. Her Juvenile Delinquent class is collaborating in service learning with Marcia Perry's Allied Health class.
- Matt Wagenheim, Assistant Professor of Recreation, Leisure Services and Wellness, is pushing for collaboration with other universities on issues of managing leisure, how people communicate in an organization, and the differences in recreation versus business sector

settings. He is collaborating with other universities on work for the Oakland County Parks system.

- Rick VanSant, Associate Professor of Education, presented to a group of architects and designers regarding the brain and design. He also made a presentation to the College of Pharmacy faculty on brain-friendly learning. At the end of summer he will be moving to create the first faculty development center at a new university in the United Arab Emirates.
- Teacher Education is preparing for accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council.
- ROTC currently has 46 students enrolled in the program.

Thank you to everyone who took time to share with us last Wednesday. We look forward to continuing to hear about your success. This week we will be meeting for additional Share Your Success sessions with the College of Allied Health Sciences and Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education. Throughout the remainder of spring semester University vice presidents and I will be meeting with every division to hear about the good work you are doing at our University.

Ice Hockey

For the first time since 2003 our ice hockey team qualified for the CCHA Championships. After a marvelous season which saw them ranked in the top ten throughout much of the season, our team lost twice this past weekend. On Friday our team came back from a 4-2 deficit in the third period to tie Northern Michigan, before falling in overtime. On Saturday they came back again to tie Miami, but gave a goal late in the third period to lose 2-1. Congratulations to Coach Bob Daniels and the ice hockey squad for a truly memorable season.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President