

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
May 26, 2010

As summer begins I want to update you on actions in Lansing and efforts here on the Big Rapids campus. Since February we have been working with the legislature to reverse the Executive budget recommendation on the TIPS scholarships. You may recall the proposed reductions would have reduced state support to only covering community college tuition rates and eliminated third and fourth year support. The higher education budget approved by the Senate included full funding for TIP students. This action has been duplicated in the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Significant changes have been made in the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, or MPERS. Beginning July 1st all MPERS employees will begin to contribute three percent of their salary toward retiree healthcare. For those now eligible to retire, the annual benefit multiplier is increased from 1.5 to 1.6 percent for employees retiring on or before August 31, who apply to the state by June 11. For long-term employees this can be a significant increase in their retirement income. A little-reported detail is that this increase in retirement income will be the financial responsibility of our University, an unfunded mandate from the state.

Employees eligible to retire should have received a letter from MPERS. Additional information about the legislation is at the state's Web site for the Office of Retirement Services at <http://www.michigan.gov/orsschools> .

Summer University

On Tuesday, June 8, and Wednesday, June 9, we will hold our annual Summer University. This year, Summer University will have a more focused program with four professional development topics: Customer Service; Information Technology Skills; Inclusion Advocacy Search Committee Training; and Social Media in Employment Recruitment. The customer service and inclusion advocates segments have been designed for specific areas in mind and there will be limited seating in these sessions for general registrations. There are many openings in the other two program areas. In addition to the information delivered during Summer University, the various sessions provide an excellent opportunity for staff to share perspectives and develop or deepen ways different departments can work together.

In place of the picnic on the Quad, on Wednesday, June 9th, there will be a free luncheon for faculty and staff at The Rock. The different approach with the faculty and staff luncheon was made in response to feedback from the campus that we should look for ways to have this important event but to reduce the cost. By not having the tent we were able to save the rental cost and the time of our Physical Plant crew to set up all the tables and chairs.

I'm hopeful you will join us for Summer University. More information is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/summeruniversity/> .

Summer Enrollment

The first numbers are in for summer enrollment. Thanks to much hard work by many people working together across colleges and departments, enrollment at Ferris continues to grow. At this point for Summer 2010 semester we have attracted 311 new students over last year – a seven percent increase.

There is significant growth in summer enrollment at our community college campus programs, which are up nearly 30 percent. Strong growth is also evidenced on-line with a 14 percent growth in student credit hours. These numbers reflect our commitment to providing access to education across Michigan and on-line. Contained in these numbers are significant increases in diverse students. African American and Hispanic student enrollment is up more than 27 percent. These numbers reflect the 4th day extract on the first summer term. We will share additional data as they become available.

Men's Golf Team Success

Congratulations to our men's golf team on their wonderful success during this past year of competition! Last week they finished seventh in the national NCAA-II championship at Sagamore Golf Club in Noblesville, Ind. This represents the best-ever national finish for the men's team. The team also won or tied for first place in four other tournaments during the 2009-2010 year. Senior Eric Lilleboe has been named a first-team All American.

Head Coach Mike Mignano was selected as the 2009-10 Division II Eaton Golf Pride Regional Coach of the Year for the Midwest Region as announced by the Golf Coaches Association of America. We are very proud of our golf team and these achievements.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President