

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 3, 2008

Campus Safety

This past holiday weekend provided another example of the extraordinary work that our Department of Public Safety provides day in and day out.

An inmate who was being held on multiple violent felony charges at the Mecosta County Jail escaped late last Wednesday evening. DPS officers stepped up their patrols of campus to help ensure that the escapee did not pose a threat to the Ferris community. Our campus police force has a close and longstanding relationship with local law enforcement agencies. That communication helped our officers act quickly and effectively in reacting to this situation.

Although the campus was quiet due to the holiday break, DPS also was in close communication with our Housing staff to keep everyone informed about any possible threat. Text and Web alerts kept the campus continually updated. Housing also placed notices on the front door of every on-campus apartment.

Although the escapee was captured Sunday in Romulus, this incident is a reminder of the demands of duty placed on our security officers – whether during a regular workday or holiday. My thanks to the Ferris Campus Police, Big Rapids City Police, Mecosta County Sheriff's Officers and Michigan State Police who helps to keep our campus safe through a collaborative effort.

This incident provided a real life opportunity to use the text messaging system. If you have not signed up to receive emergency text messages from the University, I encourage you to do. The web address for this is – <http://citywatch.ferris.edu/signup/index.asp>

Administration and Finance Vice President Search

Our search committee for the Vice President for Administration and Finance has been working hard to identify finalists for this position from a strong pool of applicants. Campus interviews will be held for the next two weeks and begin today. There will be an open forum with the first finalist, Jerry Scoby, today from 3:30-4:30 in the Rankin Center Centennial Room 252. More information about the search and the candidates' backgrounds is available at www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/adminandfinance/search

I want to thank the search committee co-chaired by Mike Hughes and Karen Thompson for leading this process for our campus.

Opportunities for Engagement and Involvement

The revised campus calendar at - <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/calendar/calendars/calendar.cfm> is a useful tool for keeping up with many of the opportunities for engagement and involvement. This week begins a Diversity Art Exhibit of Native American Art. The exhibit will be displayed from December 2 - 19,

and features art from Ferris faculty and staff, as well as regionally renowned Great Lakes Native American artists. The collection has a special emphasis on the art of traditional woodland musical instruments.

Wednesday at 11 a.m. there is a World Café for University stakeholders to provide feedback on engagement and service for the Higher Learning Commission Criterion 5. At noon there will be an opportunity to continue the dialogue on improved faculty and administration relations in the Rankin Center Dome Room. At 3 p.m. that same day is the Strategic Planning and Resource Council in the Founders' Room. Initiatives scheduled for discussion are Assessment, Diversity Plan, and Communication/Marketing. SPARC meetings are open to all of the campus community. Friday at 11 a.m. is an occasion to offer input for the Higher Learning Commission Criterion 1 - Mission and Integrity. These Listening Sessions are important for the HLC Steering Committee to hear from you.

Finally I am pleased to share the latest group of good news that I have received about our faculty and staff. This is accessible at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/GoodNews/GN111908.pdf>

The Holiday Band and Orchestra concert conducted by Dr. Scott Cohen is this Sunday at 4 p.m. These final two weeks of classes are especially busy, but I am hopeful you will take time to attend and support these opportunities for involvement and engagement.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President