

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 28, 2008

It was a great pleasure to see such a large turnout for our employee service awards last Wednesday. More than 350 people came to the Rankin Center Dome Room to honor staff members for milestones they have achieved in their service to the University. Events such as this always remind me of the extraordinary community we have at Ferris. While our physical campuses and our technology are important to our students' education, more than anything it is the people of Ferris who are the heart of this institution. My congratulations to those who received service awards and special recognition, and my thanks to everyone for their hard work over the course of this past year.

Provost Search

On Thursday I met with members of the provost search committee to thank them personally for their excellent efforts. Their hard and dedicated work identified five well qualified candidates who visited campus to interview for the provost position. In meeting with the search committee I shared my decision not to offer the appointment to any of the finalists. While some candidates had strong supporters on campus, after careful consideration and review, it is my judgment that we have not yet found the right person to lead academics at Ferris. I appreciate the time and effort that not only the search committee, but individual members of the Ferris community expended to identify the provost finalists and to come to an opinion about how they would fit with the University's mission and vision.

We are fortunate that both Ellen Haneline and Bob Loesch have agreed to continue to chair this effort, and I have invited each of the current committee members to continue with this search. I look forward to working with them to find the right person for this important position. I especially want to thank Tom Oldfield for his crucial interim leadership of Academic Affairs during this time.

Interim Vice Presidents

With Rick Duffett's retirement becoming effective this June 30th, I believe this is the time to separate Administration and Finance from University Advancement and Marketing. During this past week I visited with several administrators in both divisions qualified to serve as acting appointments. From these discussions I have chosen Rick Christner to be the interim Vice President for Administration and Finance and Shelly Armstrong to be the interim Vice President for Advancement and Marketing.

Shelly Armstrong is currently Associate Vice President of Marketing & Communications, a position she has held since coming to Ferris in 2002. She has overseen promoting the University to prospective students, alumni, donors and other key constituents in a range of new and traditional media through the development of an integrated marketing plan. Shelly holds a B.A. in journalism and an M.S. in education from Eastern Illinois University.

Rick Christner is currently Associate Vice President of Finance. In this position he has been responsible for fiscal analysis, purchasing, accounting, payroll, the business office, collections

office, and cash management and investments. Additional responsibilities have included coordination of the annual audit, preparation of the University's annual financial report and evaluation of our system of internal accounting and cash controls. Rick holds a B.A. in accounting from Michigan State University and an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. He has been with the University since 1998.

This week I will be organizing the search committees for both vice presidential positions. Shelly and Rick will be working closely with Vice President Duffett during this transitional period.

Rick Duffett's leadership will be greatly missed. However, the close working relationships he has forged in the divisions – including those with Shelly Armstrong and Rick Christner – will help make for strong continuity during this transitional period. I look forward to working with Shelly and Rick in the weeks and months ahead.

Congratulations

The Academic Senate has elected its leadership for the 2008-09 academic year. Congratulations to Rick Griffin, who was unanimously elected to his third term as president of the Senate. Joining him as officers are Vice President Mike Berghoef and Secretary Lucy Nghoh. The at-large members of the executive committee members are Keith Jewett, Melinda Isler, and John Schmidt. I appreciate their strong leadership and look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Good News

This past weekend was one of the busiest in recent memory. I especially enjoyed the 100-year celebration of music at Ferris. It was good to welcome back to campus former music directors Kent Krive and Dacho Dachoff for Sunday's Band and Orchestra Concert, and to hear current students, community members and alumni in performances throughout the week.

On Friday the College of Business learned that it will receive accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs. This is a goal Dean Dave Nicol, faculty, and staff have worked toward for several years and achieving it is a national validation of quality in the College of Business.

Ferris students were very successful at the recent Michigan SkillsUSA competition -

- Andrew Snow, Brian Reynolds, and Michael Rabe placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Technical Drafting
- Jeremiah Gallup, Frank Kruger, and Jon Greenman placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Automated Manufacturing
- Robert Tennant placed 1st in CNC Milling and Dennis Hill 1st in Surveying
- Shane Wilcome, Kevin Defouw, and Brad Burmeister placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Diesel Equipment Technology
- Michael Fleming, Derek Dewey, and Rob Hoxie placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in Graphic Communication
- Fred Fretzinger and Doug Broadwell placed 1st and 2nd in HVACR

Special thanks to faculty members Gary Maike, Joe Compton, Ramon Robinson, Yaron Felus, Pat Klarecki and Dan Wanick for assisting and preparing these students. Gold medal winners will next compete at the national competition in Kansas City, June 23-28.

This morning we are pleased to host the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee headed by Rep. Pam Byrnes on campus in IRC room 109 from 10 a.m. until noon. Copies of my presentation are available at - <http://www.ferris.edu/president/presentations.htm> .

Much more good news is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/goodnews.htm> . If you are aware of successes or accomplishments that do not appear here, please share them with your dean, vice president, or with me. There is much to celebrate about your many achievements and I very much enjoy hearing about these and making them known to the entire Ferris community.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President