

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President

March 24, 2008

Mission and Vision Statements, Diversity Plan Adopted

Last Friday the Ferris Board of Trustees officially adopted new vision and mission statements, as well as a University-wide diversity plan. These actions were made possible with the engagement of the University Strategic Planning and Resource Committee, Ferris' Diversity Office and the entire campus community. Over the past several months, the University came together in a series of meetings to discuss the future direction of Ferris, embodied in these newly adopted mission and vision statements:

Mission -

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

Vision -

Ferris State University will be:

The recognized leader in integrative education, where theory meets practice throughout the curriculum, and where multi-disciplinary skills important in a global economy are developed with the result that Ferris State University will also be:

- The preferred choice for students who seek specialized, innovative, career- and life-enhancing education
- The premier educational partner for government, communities, agencies, businesses, and industries through applied research and joint ventures
- A stimulating, student-centered academic environment that fosters life-long engagement, leadership, citizenship, and continuing intellectual development
- A university that aligns its practices and resources in support of its core values of collaboration, diversity, ethical community, excellence, learning, and opportunity

There are a whole range of resources related to diversity and the University's efforts to make Ferris an inclusive and welcoming institution. These are best accessed through www.ferris.edu/diversity. The Board's approval of the diversity plan is truly a historic, and welcome, moment in Ferris history. The plan may be accessed at www.ferris.edu/diversity/plan/Diversityplan.pdf

My thanks to everyone who participated in the development of these statements, plans and visions. Special thanks go to Dr. Robert von der Osten and to Dr. David Pilgrim for their strong

leadership efforts. I also appreciate the strong support of the Board of Trustees who worked in the development of these statements and plans and then accepted, adopted and approved them.

While the end products are of great importance for the University, perhaps even more important is the process behind the final products. The new mission and vision statements, as well as our diversity plan, represent concrete embodiments of purpose for Ferris, but they also represent the vibrancy of our institution made possible thanks to the willingness of the entire campus community to come together to give voice to who we are and what we will become in the future.

Provost Interviews and Equity Conference

I want to remind everyone of two important upcoming events – our on-campus interviews of finalists for the position of Provost and the Equity in the Classroom Conference. Interviews for the five Provost finalists take place March 24 through April 4. The schedule for the individual candidates is:

Dr. John Deegan Jr., past president of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C.
March 24, 2-3 p.m. - Starr 233
March 25, 10-11 a.m. - FLITE 133

Dr. Ben O. Latigo, dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia.
March 25, 3-4 p.m. - Business 111
March 26, 11 a.m. - Noon - Pharmacy 101

Dr. Scott Johnson, dean of the College of Business at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
March 27, 2-3 p.m. - Swan 304
March 28, 10-11 a.m. - IRC 104

Dr. Uma G. Gupta, past president of the State University of New York at Alfred.
April 2, 2-3 p.m. - Pennock 106
April 3, 10-11 a.m. - IRC 115

Dr. Michael A. Mogavero, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning at Edinboro University in Erie, Penn.
April 3, 3-4 p.m. - Bishop 209
April 4, 11 a.m. - Noon - Allied Health (VFS) 328

More information about the candidates is available on the Search Committee Web pages - www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/VPAAsearch.htm. I hope you will take time to meet with the candidates and learn about their ideas for advancing the University and our academic efforts.

The statewide “Equity in the Classroom” conference will take place at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center March 30-April 1. Featured speakers are the scholar and author Paul Loeb (*Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time*); author and Princeton associate professor of Politics and African American Studies Melissa Harris-Lacewell (*Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*); and sociologist and author James W. Loewen (*Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong*).

I am delighted that more than 100 people from Ferris have already registered for this conference. If you have not done so, there is still time for you to register. A complete schedule of events and a registration form is available at www.ferris.edu/news/equity.pdf.

National Champions

Jumper/sprinter Amy Woodman recently made Ferris athletic history by capturing the national title in the long jump at the 2008 NCAA-II Indoor Track and Field Championships at Minnesota State-Mankato’s Myers Field House, besting a field of 15 jumpers. Her national title is the first ever for a Bulldog women’s track and field athlete.

Also at the national meet, Kamitra Carroll took seventh place in the shot put. Kamitra was runner-up in the weight throw at last year’s national indoor meet, which prior to Amy’s victory this year was the best women’s national track finish by a Ferris student-athlete.

Amy and Kamitra were both named to the United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association Division II All-America Team. On the strength of Amy and Kamitra’s performances, the women’s indoor squad finished in 15th place overall in the team standings.

Women’s basketball senior Rachel Folcik has been selected as a first team academic All American. She was the only female student athlete from the Great Lakes region selected for this honor.

Congratulations to Amy, Kamitra, and Rachel on their national accomplishments and for being great representatives of the University.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President