

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 17, 2008

With the spring break behind us, we now start in on the remainder of the semester with renewed attention to the academic needs of our students – especially those who will walk in Commencement on May 9 and 10. So this is a fitting time for our University Provost search to be accelerating. Recently the Provost Search Committee held interviews in Grand Rapids and narrowed the field down to five candidates. Complete information including vitae is available at the search committee's Web pages - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/VPAAsearch.htm>.

The five finalists will be visiting campus during the next two weeks and you are invited to attend open forums with each of the candidates. Committee co-chairs Ellen Haneline and Bob Loesch sent out a University-wide message with the times and locations for the opportunities to meet the candidates. In case you missed that information, it is -

Dr. John Deegan Jr.

March 24, 2-3 p.m. - Starr 233

March 25, 10-11 a.m. - FLITE 133

Dr. Deegan is a political science graduate from the University of Michigan. For the past five years he has been president and professor of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C. Previously he was a dean and VPAA at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Penn.

Dr. Ben O. Latigo

March 25, 3-4 p.m. - Business 111

March 26, 11 a.m. - Noon - Pharmacy 101

Dr. Latigo is an aerospace engineering graduate from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Presently he is dean and professor in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia. Previously he was professor and chair at the University of Toledo.

Dr. Scott Johnson

March 27, 2-3 p.m. - Swan 304

March 28, 10-11 a.m. - IRC 104

Dr. Johnson is a marketing graduate from Michigan State University. He is currently dean of the College of Business at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Dr. Uma G. Gupta

April 2, 2-3 p.m. - Pennock 106

April 3, 10-11a.m. - IRC 115

Dr. Gupta is an industrial engineering graduate from the University of Central Florida. She is currently senior advisor to the provost and full professor for the State University of New York. Previously she was president of the State University of New York at Alfred.

Dr. Michael A. Mogavero

April 3, 3-4 p.m. - Bishop 209

April 4, 11 a.m. - Noon - Allied Health (VFS) 328

Dr. Mogavero is an economics graduate from the University of Connecticut. He is currently vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning at Edinboro University in Erie, Penn. Previous to his various administrative positions at Edinboro, he was dean of the School of Business at Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y.

It is important you take time to meet with the finalists and to provide your input for this search. I also want to echo the sentiment Bob and Ellen expressed in their message and encourage you to thank the members of this search committee for the many hours of time and effort they have invested in this process.

Equity in the Classroom Conference

On March 30 - April 1 we will be hosting the statewide “Equity in the Classroom” conference at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. This is the 18th year of this conference sponsored by the King-Chavez-Parks Initiative, 15 public and five private universities, and GEAR UP Michigan. This year’s focus on “Inclusion, Leadership and the Classroom: Making the Connection” could not be more appropriate for us here at Ferris, given our efforts over the past several months to shape and adopt a University-wide Diversity Plan.

The conference has a very strong line-up of speakers and sessions. The three featured speakers are –

- Paul Loeb, a scholar at the Center for Ethical Leadership in Seattle. Loeb is a widely published author and columnist best known for his influential book, *Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time*. His writing and speaking have helped inspire the American Democracy Project, which is active on some 200 campuses including Ferris State University.
- Melissa Harris-Lacewell, associate professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University. She is the author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*.
- James W. Loewen, author of the bestselling book, *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong*.

Loeb, Harris-Lacewell and Loewen are also leading breakout sessions during the conference. SST Communications, the theatrical group who performed during last year's Summer University, will be Monday evening's program, "Synergy from Others: Cultural Diversity on Campus." Session facilitators include a number of people from Ferris State University: Anne Marie Gillespie; Brian Kelly and Wendy Hardy; Andy Karafa and Yolanda Barnes; Jessica Mills; Barry Mehler; and William Potter and Debra Cox. There will also be opportunities to tour the Jim Crow Museum. I want to thank everyone involved in presenting, facilitating, planning and hosting this important conference.

In *Soul of a Citizen*, Loeb writes about how we should count an action of ours as a victory, "...each time we bring new participants into a culture of commitment." With our Diversity and Strategic Planning initiatives, we have extended the University's commitment to the kind of "culture of commitment" Loeb describes.

To find a complete schedule of events and a registration form for the conference, go to <http://www.ferris.edu/news/equity.pdf>. What a wonderful opportunity it is to have such a superb lineup of experts presenting right here in Big Rapids. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Closing Notes

Last week the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee provided the opportunity to present on our optometry building project. Dr. Mark Swan, currently serving as president of the Michigan Optometric Association, joined me and emphasized the statewide nature of our optometry efforts. One of the impressive facts I learned last week is that our students average 1,500 eye examinations before graduation. Our presentation was favorably received by the committee and is accessible at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/presentations.htm>.

Congratulations to Coach Bob Daniels and the ice hockey team, whose very successful season ended last evening with a tough 2-1 loss at Notre Dame. This was the quarterfinal round of the CCHA playoffs and our team was ranked 18th in the nation last week.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President