

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 11, 2008

Last week the Academic Senate took positive votes on several issues of historic importance to Ferris State University. Members of the Senate endorsed and recommended the proposed mission and vision statements developed by the campus community and approved by the University Strategic Planning and Resource Committee.

The 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.

The 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.

The mission and vision statements will be formally presented to the University's Board of Trustees at their meeting on March 21st. The Board will vote on their approval at that time.

These statements are important because they articulate both where the University is today, and the path it is charting for the future. The Ferris community demonstrated its engagement by taking time and care in considering them, and giving voice to a wide-range of perspectives instrumental in shaping the final documents.

Together we want to express our thanks to you for your participation in the development, consideration and revision of these statements. These declarations of our mission and vision express a vitality and commitment that goes to the heart of who we are. We will continue to draw upon your help and support as we move toward finalizing goals and initiatives, the action statements of this strategic planning process.

We want to thank each of you who made - and continue to make - this process both energizing and successful.

Best wishes,

Robert von der Osten, Chair
Strategic Planning and Resource Committee

David L. Eisler
President