

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 27, 2004
Ext. 2500

Over the past two weeks five finalists for the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) position have interviewed on campus. This was an outstanding group of candidates, each qualified to be a VPAA in their own way. I want to extend my thanks to the search committee and their chair, Nancy Peterson-Klein, for a truly outstanding job in screening candidates, selecting finalists, and coordinating the interview process both in Big Rapids and Grand Rapids.

During the next few days I have scheduled thirty-three meetings with individuals involved in this search. This information will be combined with the surveys completed at each interview, reference checks, conference calls, the application letter, resume, and other supporting materials. However beyond this I need your help in making the final decision for this position. If you visited with the candidates while they were on campus I would very much appreciate it if you would share your thoughts and observations with me via email. It is not necessary for you to have seen each candidate. The following information would be helpful -

- Which candidates did you see?
- What were their strengths, weaknesses?
- In your interactions and observations with the candidates were there things that impressed or concerned you?
- What do you think is the growth potential of the candidates over the next five years?
- Are there other observations, opinions, or information you would like to share?

I would appreciate receiving this by Thursday, January 29, so I may consider it in my deliberations. Thank you for participating in this important search and for taking time to share your thoughts with me. I am hopeful we can introduce our new vice president to the campus by the middle of February.

2004-2005 Planning Discussions

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we will be conducting planning meetings for the 2004-2005 academic year. The format for this year's meetings has changed with more of an emphasis upon assessment and discussion. Each session may be somewhat different depending upon the person leading the discussion; however I believe the meetings will follow this approach. A three-page action plan has been prepared for each session. The director, dean or vice president will take the group through this document, with discussion continuing throughout. Copies of planning documents and planning forms are available at

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/planning2003.htm>.

Meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are scheduled in Rankin Presidents Room (Room 238). Friday's meeting is in FLITE 438. The schedule of meetings is as follows -

Tuesday, Feb. 3rd	1:00 pm	University Advancement and Marketing
	3:00 pm	Student Affairs
Wednesday, Feb. 4th	1:00 pm	Academic Affairs
Thursday, Feb. 5th	8:00 am	Academic Affairs
	1:00 pm	Administration and Finance
	3:00 pm	Governmental Relations & General Counsel
Friday, Feb. 6th	10:00 am	FSU - Grand Rapids

Additional schedule information is available at

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/uap2004schedule.htm>.

Thoughtful and effective planning is very important in charting the future course of Ferris State University. If you would like to participate in this process I would encourage you to attend as your schedule permits.

Good Work and Good News

Over the past few weeks we have had what I believe is an unusual amount of winter weather. I want to extend my special thanks to the men and women who frequently work alone in the dark and cold to clear our campus streets and sidewalks. Likewise snow, slush, and salt mean extra work for our custodians. Thank you for your help and assistance.

Friday evening's *Pioneer* had a very nice editorial regarding enrollment growth at Ferris State University and cooperation with our community. What a delight it was to see such solid support for you and our university. I wanted very much to share this with you and have received permission to post it on our website. If you did not have the opportunity to see this, it is at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/enroll2004editorial.htm>.

Enrollment growth means each of us works harder. However it also helps us endure these challenging budgetary times. Thank you very much for your extra help and support.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President