

Media Packet

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Newsweekly, White Pigeon

June 30, 2004

SC4 and Ferris State University band together for new bachelor's degree program

On June 18 the presidents of St. Clair County Community College and Ferris State University signed an agreement, which will bring a new bachelor's degree in industrial technology and management to the University Center at SC4.

The Ferris State program is slated to begin this fall on SC4's campus. It is designed for working adults who have technical education or training in their background and want to prepare for an administrative position or an advanced technical job. Dr. David Eisler, president of Ferris State University, said his institution looks forward to bringing the program to SC4. "Ferris State is delighted to be engaged in this new partnership with St. Clair County Community College. We look forward to working with this college and the citizens of this area to bring programs that not only will assist individuals to build their careers but will also contribute to the development' of the Michigan economy."

Ferris officials explained that courses in the program will include business management, design, quality science, and project management. The program will feature small classes, hands-on training, real-world scenarios, and easy access to experienced instructors. Graduates will be prepared for positions in production supervision, sales engineering, production planning, quality, engineering supervision, or project management.

SC4 President Dr. Rose Bellanca said SC4 is excited about this partnership with Ferris because it is a university with "an outstanding reputation as a leader both in technology and in providing innovative career-based education."

The Grand Rapids Press

Friday, July 16, 2004

Ferris set to hike tuition 2.4 percent

The Ferris State University Board of Trustees meets today to vote on a proposal to increase fall tuition 2.4 percent.

Board members are expected to approve the increase and also a \$21 per-credit "general fee" for students taking courses outside the Big Rapids campus. This includes students at FSU's Grand Rapids campus and Kendall College of Art and Design.. If approved, full-time undergraduate students taking classes on the Big Rapids campus will pay \$3,095 per semester, \$73 more than last year.

Meanwhile, the board is expected to bump Kendall tuition up 2.2 percent and tack on the \$21 per-credit fee. When the fee is factored in, the actual year-to-year tuition rate increase is about 1 1 percent.

Full-time Kendall students will pay \$5,019 per semester and \$315 in general fees, for a total of \$5,334. Kendall is more expensive to attend because of its higher priced art studio classes.

Administrators said the \$21 per-credit fee is intended to equalize the cost of general education courses at all Ferris locations.

Last year, students at Kendall and FSU-Grand Rapids paid \$230 per credit for general education courses, while students on the main Big Rapids campus paid \$50 per credit. This year, the Big Rapids cost per credit is \$256 and the off-campus cost is \$235 plus the \$21 fee.

"Basically, you're equalizing the campuses," Board President Bruce Parsons said.

He expected the fall tuition proposal to win approval today.

"On a scale of one to 10, not approving it would be about a negative 10," he said.

The 2.4 percent tuition recommendation makes the university eligible to receive 3 percent in restored state funding that Gov. Jennifer Granholm pledged to return to schools who keep fall tuition hikes below the rate of inflation.

Last December, the state cut funding by 5 percent. Based on that agreement, Ferris administrators hope to receive \$43.9 million from the state for the upcoming school year. Parsons said Ferris still will qualify for the state reimbursement despite the fact that today's proposal actually would boost Kendall and FSU-Grand Rapids tuition more than 2.4 percent.

The Grand Rapids Press

Saturday, July 17, 2004

Granholm criticizes FSU fee proposal

The Ferris State University Board of Trustees tabled a proposed 2.4 percent tuition cost and separate \$21 per-credit "general fee Friday, the same day Gov. Jennifer Granholm's spokeswoman said the fee "violates the spirit of the governor's pact with universities hold down tuition.

"We believe that the proposal certainly violates the spirit of the governor's program, if not the letter of that program," said Liz Boyd, Granholm's spokeswoman.

The Ferris proposal calls for a 2.4 percent tuition increase for students at the Big Rapids campus and a 2.2 percent tuition increase and a \$21 per-credit fee for all students taking classes off campus - including those at Kendall College of Art and Design and FSU-Grand Rapids.

Ferris Board President Bruce Parsons said he isn't worried about the governor's fee concerns.

"I'm not concerned about that a bit," he said Friday.

The off-campus fee aims to standardize the general education tuition rate for all courses at all Ferris locations, including courses offered at Grand Rapids Community College. Last year, these courses were more expensive if taken on the Big Rapids campus.

Students in Grand Rapids paid \$230 per credit for general education courses, while students in Big Rapids paid \$250 last year. If the board approves the tuition proposal, the cost per credit in Big Rapids would be \$256, and the off-campus cost would be \$235 plus the \$21 fee.

University President David Eisler recommended the board delay its tuition decision until it gets more information from the state.

"There are too many unanswered questions, and I think there is wisdom in waiting," Eisler said in a university news release.

The governor promised to restore 3 percent of a previous funding cut to universities that held tuition at or below the rate of inflation. The tuition hike at Ferris could creep higher and still allow the university to qualify for funding restoration, Parsons said.

Pioneer

Weekend, July 17 & 18, 2004

FSU tables tuition hike

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Board of Trustees tabled a 2.4 percent tuition increase for in-state undergraduate students this fall in the face of uncertain state funding.

The trustees reviewed the proposal during Friday morning's meeting.

"There are too many unanswered questions, and I think there is wisdom in waiting," said Ferris President David Eisler.

For fiscal year 2005, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the legislature have agreed to reinstate 3 percentage points of the 5 percent December funding reduction to universities who pledge to increase fall tuition by no more than the rate of inflation (and did not increase tuition midyear).

The rate of inflation at the time Ferris agreed to this proposal was 2.4 percent, which has risen to 2.8 percent. This, coupled with a state budget that has not been finalized, prompted the board to wait until state budget decisions become clearer. Administrators say they expect to decide on a tuition recommendation by early August and, in the meantime, will discuss how they plan to handle tuition bills.

Currently, full-time, in state undergraduates pay \$3,022 per semester or \$6,044 annually in tuition. Under the proposed 2.4 percent increase, they would pay \$73 more per semester for a total of \$3,095 per semester or \$6,190 annually.

Graduate tuition rates would increase 2.3 percent under the current proposal. In other action, the board of trustees approved a 3.1 percent increase in room and board rates for next academic year to cover operating cost increases.

Students living in the residence halls with a 19 meal plan will pay \$196 more or \$6,522 annually and \$192 more or \$6,780 for a one-bedroom apartment. The board also approved a fiscal year 2004-05 housing and dining budget of \$29 million.

Other items approved included:

The naming of the Digital Photogrammetry and GIS Laboratory in the Swan Building on the Big Rapids campus for John and Lynda Fenn of Sterling Heights, who have provided funding for renovations to the lab. John Fenn is a longtime member of the Surveying Engineering Advisory Committee and a leader in the surveying industry. His firm, Fenn & Associates, has sponsored annual scholarships for Ferris surveying engineering students for more than a decade.

The addition of a Special Needs concentration as part of the College of Education and Human Services Master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction degree to address a nationwide shortage of special education teachers. Students can begin enrolling in the new program this fall.

Appointed attorney Lisa McGuire Ahmed to the board of directors of Bridge Academy in Hamtramck and Andrea DeShields-Jenkins, senior team leader for Adult Well-Being Services of Detroit, to the board of directors of the Joy Preparatory Academy in Detroit, both of which are FSU authorized charter schools.

Following an executive session, the board voted to grant President Eisler a 3 percent salary increase, bringing his annual salary to \$170,000.

During the board's annual meeting, which preceded the regular meeting, the following board officers were elected: Greg Patera of Lake Odessa, chair; Art Tebo of Walloon Lake, vice chair; and Olga Dazzo of East Lansing, secretary.

The next regular meeting of the board of trustees will be held at 1:30 p.m., Oct. 22 (Homecoming), in Big Rapids.

Pioneer

Weekend, July 17&18, 2004

Ferris officials supportive of fifth-year proposal

BIG RAPIDS - The National Association of Basketball Coaches proposed several blockbuster changes that could drastically alter the current college hoops landscape at its annual summer meeting in Indianapolis.

A committee within the NABC recommended, among other changes, the NCAA consider granting student-athletes five years of eligibility - as opposed to the current four-year makeup. The proposal has a lot of people smiling.

In addition to boasting the full backing of the NABC, the plan later picked up another major endorsement from NCAA Myles Brand.

"I'm supportive of the package in its entirety;" Brand said to the Associated Press about the proposal unanimously approved by membership of the NABC. "It's coherent, and it's an effort to make the coach look more like mentor and a teacher."

The NCAA president noted graduation rates particularly in Division I men's basketball have not been up to the standards he would prefer. Brand said also more and more students are taking approximately 4.8 years to finish their college degrees. Since the average student is more frequently using in the neighborhood of five years to graduate, coaches like Ferris State's Bill Sall wonder why college athletics can not adapt its thinking to that trend.

"Really, it's almost the national average now if you take a hard look around at the graduation statistics," said the Bulldog head coach, who loses seniors Willie Thomas and Nate Wruble. "More and more regular students are taking five years to graduate and somehow we're expecting our student-athletes to come in and do all of those things plus basically take on a full-time job of being a student athlete and get this all done in four years."

Also a part of the NABC proposal would be more frequent meetings between coach and player to discuss academic issues and future plans after athletic eligibility has been exhausted.

"A few years ago Division II had a proposal that just about made it through before it was ultimately defeated and it recommended something similar to this NABC proposal," said Ferris State Athletics Director Tom Kirinovic. "I like this idea (of five years of eligibility) because it recognizes that kids just are not graduating as frequently in four years and this could provide a little extra incentive for student athletes who might be close to graduating to come back and finish that last year and earn their degree."

Kirinovic also stated it puts universities in a better position to financially assist fifth-year student-athletes who are close to graduating without taking scholarship money from a player eligible to contribute to the program.

In Division I, where many athletes have their eyes on the NBA, scheduling classes can be a strange juggling act of taking a course to graduate and taking some just to stay eligible.

Since class offerings by a university for a particular program vary from semester to semester, student-athletes have to find ways to meet NCAA athletic eligibility standards.

"A lot of guys take classes to stay eligible," said North Carolina star men's basketball player Sean May. "By the time they get to the end of their college career, they're not on course to graduate and they still have to come back to school. If a player gets that fifth year of eligibility, it could help them and the game a lot."

Sall also knows of cases where a student-athlete exhausts four years in a sport at the college level and leaves school with somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 to 30 credits left to graduate--perhaps two more semesters of hitting the books.

At the Division II level, Sall believes reality has to take hold. "Division II is not a basketball factory where we're putting out players left and right to the NBA," he said. "We, as educators, have to want to give our athletes a better opportunity to earn their college degree and this is a good way of getting that done."

"This proposal, if it's passed, can do nothing but help graduation rates."

Officials know the proposal, like any other, has its critics.

"I understand it will be controversial," Brand said. "We'll see how it turns out. But I believe the main purpose is to increase graduation rates in men's basketball, which has had the most severe problem."

"In some ways, it's not a radical package. It's a coherent package," he added. "It's a new model and a new approach for student athletes and recruiting. I'm very supportive of it."

The Grand Rapids Press

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Ferris president awarded increase in pay, benefits

Ferris State University President David Eisler will have a little extra spending money this school year.

The university's Board of Trustees recently approved a \$5,000 pay raise, boosting Eisler's annual base pay to \$170,000. The board also increased his benefits package, which totals \$55,000, including \$10,000 in deferred compensation, a \$30,000 housing allowance and a \$15,000 performance bonus.

The bonus will be given to Eisler at the discretion of the board, based on his performance next year.

Eisler was hired by the David Eisler university last summer. "David Eisler has been very good for Ferris," said Board President Bruce Parsons. "He's done a wonderful job this past year."

Pioneer

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Game before the game adds to rivalry

GREENVILLE - Officials from Ferris State and Grand Valley State gathered Wednesday afternoon to nail down several major details of the first Alumni Bowl Challenge between the two West Michigan universities.

This fall, football alumni from Ferris and Grand Valley will compete in a flag football game at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids Aug. 28 at 3:30 p.m. The flag football game is all part of Ferris Frenzy, a series of events that will serve as an appetizer for the evening's main event - the season-opening Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference contest between the Bulldogs and Lakers in Big Rapids at 7 p.m. The flag football game will serve as an opportunity for proud alumni from both schools to have another opportunity to compete against a rival in athletic competition.

"I think this is going to be a very fun event and I hope all of the alumni from both schools will come to Big Rapids, play the game the right way, have a good time and be respectful of this great rivalry," said Ferris alum Bill Scheible, who will serve as a coach and player for the Bulldog side. "This is such a great rivalry and whenever the schedule is out and people see Grand Valley on it, I'm always getting calls from people wanting to know what I think about the game or how it's going to play out. ... It's a big rivalry."

The same is true on the Laker side.

"I think the important thing is going to be that we all come out and have a great time and respect this rivalry between these two great West Michigan universities," said Grand Valley coach/player Jamie Hosford. "With the big game and everything else that's going on it's looking like this is going to be a great day and a great event between these two big rivals." In addition to having coaches from both teams present at the gathering in Greenville at the Crazy Horse Saloon (close to midway between the schools), players also were present.

"There will be a strong competition out there and I'm sure there's going to be some banter back and forth between some of the players, but we're going to have fun and we're not going to allow anything to get out of hand or anything like that," said former Bulldog wide out Ira Childress, who is one of the chief organizers of the game.

Childress, a member of the 1999 FSU championship team, will see a familiar face on the other side of the field in Jason Trice, who had a distinguished gridiron career for the Lakers from 1995-98 as a receiver.

"We know this has to be a fun event for our people and for people who are involved with Ferris or they won't want to be a part of anything like this in the future," he said. "We want this (flag football) game to be a fun event and we won't tolerate anything inappropriate."

Also at the meeting were Ferris Alumni Relations Director Jeremy Mishler and Kim Schmidt, who is assistant alumni relations director at Grand Valley. Also involved in the

organization, and present on Wednesday, were GVSU alum Dan Newton and Ferris University Recreation boss Bob Sinclair, who is organizing the officiating for the event.

The two teams will be recognized n the field at halftime of the big game and the trophy will be presented to the winner until next year.

The Grand Rapid Press

Friday, July 23, 2004

The International Facility Management Association will sponsor a golf outing on Aug. 19 at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Belmont. Preparing for the competition, which will begin with a shotgun start at 8 a.m., (are, from left, Larry White, Janice Kitchen, Jill Wendorf and Carson Cooper). Included will be on-course contests, including a chance to win a car by shooting a hole in one, and a 50/50 raffle. Cost is \$75 per person, which covers 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch and prizes. Proceeds will go to the IFMA Student Scholarship at Ferris State University, to benefit seniors in the facility management program. Call 262-9517 for registration information or about sponsorships; or check the Web at www.ifma-wm.org.

Pioneer

Weekend, July 24&25, 2004

Summer camp children trying to help needy

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University Bulldog Summer Camp at Tot's Place has teamed up with Project Starburst this summer to help out those less fortunate.

Project Starburst has identified two areas of need this summer: Food for children's lunches during summer break and infant items (diapers, wipes, bottles etc.). To assist with these needs, the children in the Bulldog Summer Camp have come up with two ways to help.

The first is a food drive. Until Tuesday, a collection box will be located at Tot's Place to collect nonperishable food items for children's lunches (soups, Spaghetti 0's, boxed macaroni and cheese, etc.).

The second way they hope to help is a yard sale, which will take place on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to noon. The sale will be located at the Bishop Hall entrance. All proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase infant items for Project Starburst.

All of the Bulldog Summer Camp children are very excited about this project, organizers said. They have invested much time and effort to help others in the community.

Pioneer

Monday, July 26, 2004

Facilities boost FSU recruiting efforts

BIG RAPIDS -- The last decade has seen the facilities, not just in the athletics department, undergo a much-needed facelift.

Enhancements to the athletic facilities at Ferris State have been a big boost to the coaches, who are always in search of ways to best sell their university and Programs to potential student athletes. During her first year coaching in Big Rapids, FSU head women's basketball coach Tracey Fisk's team played its home games at Big Rapids High School. The reason for that was Ferris was in the midst of building the new Jim Wink Arena which officially opened in the winter of 1999. With the new multi-million dollar Wink Arena came improved locker rooms, training room facilities, better lighting, better seating and more.

"Our facilities are top notch," Fisk said when asked about how she is able to attract quality student-athletes to her program. "We have an advantage over a lot of programs that compete with, in terms of facilities because we don't have to share our basketball facilities with other teams like some who have one big have to share it with other sports teams.

"Another thing we also have for our student-athletes is we can take them to our new student recreation center and show them everything that is in there and for their use as students, too."

Ferris State Athletics Director Tom Kirinovic, who took over his post in 1999, presides over a 15-sport intercollegiate program. That means, during certain times of the year the facilities can be squeezed by different teams trying to make use of limited indoor spaces during the cold winter months. However, whether it is indoors in the winter or outdoors at other times of the year, the FSU athletics director still thinks the school's athletic facilities are solid.

"We are very lucky to have a lot of the facilities we do have," Kirinovic said. "It's a situation that could be very easy to take for granted, but we've made a lot of improvements in pretty much all of our facilities.

"I know indoor season has been a struggle for our track and field program and we have a lot to be desired in that respect, but right now we're in the process of a five-year plan that would involve an indoor track and field facility."

Top Taggart Field, the home of the Bulldog football and outdoor track and field programs, is one of the better facilities of its kind in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The facility is currently in the midst of a three-phase project to enhance it. Phase one was the installation of the Astro Turf 12 artificial playing surface that was completed

in the summer of 1998. Phase two was the \$1.8 million Wheeler Pavilion building that houses the press box, clubroom level, ticket window, concessions and more. Phase three, funded primarily through private donations, will be to add locker rooms for the teams, an on-site weight room and offices for the coaching staff.

At the FSU Softball Field, a new multi-level press box was installed and includes restrooms and a storage area for equipment. The new bleachers installed seat 250 fans. Also, both dugouts were painted; a batting cage and bullpen area were added to the facility.

"We feel like we have one of the best softball facilities in the conference and in the region - bar none," said Ferris softball coach Keri Becker during the ceremony where the new facilities were officially unveiled. "I've seen all of the softball facilities in the conference and most of the ones in the region and this is definitely one of the best." The Ewigleben Ice Arena, home to the Bulldog hockey team, also has added a fresh new locker room area, a new press box, coaching offices, a lounge area and room for equipment.

The new locker rooms also benefit the Big Rapids High School hockey team, which plays in the facility. Two new scoreboards were installed in 1999 and brand new bleacher seats were put in place prior to the 2000-01 season.

Additionally, the Ewigleben Sports Arena (home of the Bulldog volleyball team) had a new wooden floor installed in the spring of 2001, the golf programs benefit from the new Professional Golf Management facilities at Katke Golf Course and the Ferris tennis teams have seen steady improvement in their facilities thanks in large part to Professional Tennis Management. Improvements such as an equipment shed and scoreboard, will decorate the FSU Soccer Field.

"We know that in terms of facilities we've made a lot of improvement, but we still have some room where we can get even better," Kirinovic said. "Even though we don't have everything that we would want we have not let it hold us back and our coaches and student athletes deserve a lot of credit for that."

Pioneer

Thursday, July 29, 2004

Ferris picked fourth

ALLENDALE - During the majority of the last 15 years, Ferris State has been fairly synonymous with conference championship success on the gridiron.

This fall, the Bulldogs hope to live up to their reputation of old as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference football championship race gets under way in late August. The coaches of the conference think pretty highly of Ferris as the Bulldogs were chosen fourth in the league coaches' poll with 101 points. Grand Valley State, the two-time defending NCAA Division II champ, was picked first with 140 points and eight first-place votes. The Bulldogs realize they must work for everything they get this season in the GLIAC. The team also feels it has the proper pedigree for the task.

"The tradition we have at Ferris State has created high expectations on the part of our coaches and fans," said FSU head coach Jeff Pierce, who is entering his 10th season in that capacity this fall, at GLIAC Media Day at the Alumni House on the Grand Valley campus. "We have a great group of guys who are going to be returning to our football program who have spent a lot of time in Big Rapids this summer working hard and getting themselves prepared for this season."

The backbone of the Bulldog football team this fall could be on the side of the defense with a veteran line backed by a group of linebackers who are about as good as it gets. Up front, defensive tackle Whitney Bell and end John Hazle anchor the line while Kevin Myers and Rob Mida, both of whom boast speed and athleticism, solidify a strong crew of linebackers.

Ferris finished 6-5 last season overall and 5-5 in the GLIAC, but has higher aspirations for the upcoming campaign. Pierce, who as a head coach has led the Bulldogs to league championships in 1995, 96 and 99, feels good about his hungry club entering this fast-approaching 2004 campaign.

"We have seven starters back on defense, including Whitney Bell, who we feel has become a dominant player on the defensive line," Pierce said. "We actually have three of our four defensive line starters from last season returning and at linebacker we're going to be strong with Kevin Myers, who has gotten some All-American recognition, and Rob Mida."

Offensively, Pierce and his staff envision a more efficient scoring attack that minimizes turnovers and maximizes first downs and touchdowns.

"We didn't have the kind of productivity we needed to have on offense and it seemed like we were plagued with injuries on our offensive line," he said. "We were forced to play a lot of young players last season, but now those young guys have gained a lot of experience and are all back for us."

Offensively, split end Carlton Brewster, who also doubles as a top kick and punt returner, has emerged as one of the top and most exciting players in the GIAC. The 5-foot-11, 200-pound Brewster finished with 93 catches for 1,033 yards and 10 touchdowns. The former Grand Rapids Creston star returned 48 punts for 430 yards and two TD's.

Veteran Andrew Terry, a senior at tailback and high school teammate of Brewster, replaces all-league runner Derek Fudge in the offensive backfield.

"Drew is returning in the backfield with a lot of experience and Carlton is a game breaker as a returner or as a receiver for us," Pierce said.

The Bulldogs open at home on Aug. 28 at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids as rival Grand Valley pays a visit for a 7 p.m. contest.

The Grand Rapids Press

Thursday, July 29, 2004

Ferris State may raise tuition, fees

The Ferris State Board of Trustees today plans to vote on a proposed 2.4 percent tuition increase and a separate \$21 per-credit "general fee."

The board postponed the vote at last week's meeting at President David Eisler's urging. Eisler has said he was awaiting for more budget information from Lansing.

Because it remains unclear when the Legislature will finalize its budget, Ferris administrators decided to settle the tuition question today and mail bills Friday.

The Ferris proposal calls for a 2.4 percent tuition increase for students at the Big Rapids campus and a 2.2 percent tuition increase and a \$21 per-credit fee for all students taking classes off campus including those at Kendall College of Art and Design and FSU Grand Rapids.

The off-campus fee aims to standardize the general education tuition rate for all courses at all Ferris locations. Last year, these courses were more expensive if taken on the Big Rapids campus.

Students in Grand Rapids paid \$230 per credit for general education courses, while students in Big Rapids paid \$250 last year. If the board approves the tuition proposal, the cost-per-credit in Big Rapids would be \$256, and the off-campus cost would be \$235 plus the \$21 fee.

The Grand Rapids Press

Friday, July 30, 2004

Ferris socks off-campus students with big increase

Tuition is going up at Ferris State University; and off-campus students will shoulder the brunt of the increase this fall.

The school's Board of Trustees on Thursday approved a 2.4 percent tuition increase for students on the main Big Rapids campus and a 2.3 percent increase plus a separate \$21 per-credit "general fee" for all students taking general education classes off campus - including those at FSU's Kendall College of Art and Design and FSU-Grand Rapids.

The board approved the increase during a special meeting held via a conference call.

Last year, students in Grand Rapids paid \$230 per credit for general education courses, while students in Big Rapids paid \$250. This fall, the cost-per credit in Big Rapids will be \$256, and the off-campus cost will be \$235 plus the \$21 fee.

That means a full-time undergraduate student on the Big Rapids campus will pay \$3,095 per semester, \$73 more than last year.

In Grand Rapids, the per-credit "general fee" will raise the actual cost 8.7 percent for a full-time Kendall student, who will pay \$5,019 per semester and \$315 in general fees, for a total of \$5,334. Kendall students pay more for specialized art studio classes.

Administrators said the off-campus fee is intended to standardize the general education tuition rate for courses at all Ferris locations. Last year, these courses were more expensive if taken on the Big Rapids campus.

Pioneer

Friday, July 30, 2004

Ferris increases tuition Raise lowest in eight years

BIG RAPIDS - In a special meeting held Thursday via teleconference, the Ferris State University Board of Trustees approved a 2.4 percent or \$73-per-semester increase in full-time/resident undergraduate student tuition for this fall, the lowest rate of increase at Ferris since 1996-97.

The board postponed the vote at its July 16 meeting in the face of uncertain state funding. Because it still remains unclear when the Legislature will finalize its budget administrators decided to vote on the tuition increase proposal today and mail student bills as scheduled.

The increase brings tuition for full-time resident undergraduates taking classes on the Big Rapids campus to \$3,095 per semester or \$6,190 annually. Full-time/non-resident undergraduates will pay \$4,643 or \$110 more per semester and international students, \$6,190 or \$146 per semester.

Graduate tuition rates will increase 2.3 percent, with residents paying \$316 per-credit hour; non-residents, \$474; and international students, \$632. The tuition increases comply with the governor's tuition restraint proposal to hold resident, undergraduate tuition for the fall semester to no more than a 2.4 percent increase, according to Ferris President David Eisler. Should that proposal not materialize, he said tuition rates would be adjusted accordingly.

"We hope that by imposing the lowest rate of tuition increase at Ferris in eight years that the impact on students and their parents will be minimized," Eisler said.

"Raising tuition is one of the most difficult decisions the university administration and board of trustees have to make. Unfortunately, it is the only means by which we can help make up for a considerable reduction in state funding for Ferris. Since the fall of 2001, Ferris' funding has been reduced by 17.5 percent or \$9.5 million. This translates into a reduction in state support per student of more than 25 percent," Eisler said.

Tuition for resident students enrolled in Ferris' first professional programs - pharmacy and optometry will increase by \$285 per semester, with tuition totaling \$5,985 per semester. Non-resident first professional tuition rates will be frozen at the 2004 rate of \$11,400 per semester.

Tuition will increase approximately 2.3 percent for resident and non-resident undergraduate students attending Ferris' College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. Kendall resident undergraduates will pay \$235 per credit hour for general education classes and \$401 for studio classes, a \$5 and \$9 increase, respectively. Non-resident undergraduates will pay \$353 per-credit hour for general education classes and \$602 for studio classes, an \$8 and \$14 increase, respectively. The \$475 per-credit hour graduate tuition rate will not change.

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in off-campus classes at the College of Professional and Technological Studies in Grand Rapids and through the University Center for Extended Learning's statewide locations will pay and \$316 per credit hour, respectively, which represents a \$5 and \$7 increase. Off campus students also will be assessed a new \$21 per-credit-hour fee which will support general university operations and will bring off campus rates in line with on-campus rates.

The tuition proposal was included in the fiscal 2004-05 general fund operating budget recommendation of \$132 million for the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids campuses, which also was approved by trustees. This represents an increase of \$3.4 million or 2.7 percent of last year's approved budget, with the additional revenue generated from an increase in enrollment and tuition and fees.

The next regular meeting of the board of trustees will be held at 1:30 p.m., Oct. 22 (homecoming), in Big Rapids.

Grand Rapids Business Journal

August 2, 2004

Higher Ed Institutions Partnering To Help Students

GRAND RAPIDS - The downtown Grand Rapids landscape holds several examples of how far the educational offerings within the region have grown over the past decade.

In the not too distant past, Kendall College, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Junior College (now Grand Rapids Community College) and a Grand Valley State University downtown extension were the only higher education options available here.

Now, however, Ferris State University, Western Michigan University and Michigan State University have all joined the fray, many through a variety of partnerships with the established institutions.

This is just one example of how West Michigan's universities and colleges are reaching more students - many times forsaking competition for cooperation.

"I think there is a tendency to not see that, because that isn't a piece that gets a lot of attention," said David Eisler, FSU president. "But there are a lot of cooperative relationships that we all have. And in a time of scarce resources, it helps to be able to meet more student needs."

FSU is perhaps Michigan's best example of cooperation within the education community. Through a variety of partnerships, Ferris has extended its reach from as far north as Traverse City to as far south as Dowagiac, while maintaining its Big Rapids identity and establishing a strong presence in Grand Rapids.

"Our story in Grand Rapids is a story of partnerships," Eisler said.

Beginning with the Applied Technology Center at Grand Rapids Community College, Ferris was able to establish a campus in downtown Grand Rapids, housing GRCC and Ferris students in the same facility. Since then, Ferris has risen from GRCC's fifth most popular transfer destination to its second.

A merger with Kendall College of Art and Design gave Ferris even greater penetration into the market, and through one of the city's oldest and most prestigious educational institutions.

That relationship also provided an instant impact for Kendall - where enrollment had been suffering - with expanded and enhanced academic programs, dramatic new facilities, a new student gallery, technology and capital funding.

Kendall's enrollment rose by a third over the next five years.

With the success of the GRCC partnership, Ferris further expanded its reach with programs involving other two-year colleges. An articulation agreement with Northwestern Michigan University's Great Lakes Maritime Academy reached fruition this year with the graduation of the first joint class. Students were awarded a bachelor's from Ferris and an associate's from the academy concurrently, with all classes taken in Traverse City.

Ferris offers 27 different programs away from Big Rapids, with several of those designed to serve isolated communities such as Traverse City. Partnerships with Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac and Niles and Westshore Community College in Ludington, among others, have helped make four-year degrees accessible to communities distant from higher education opportunities.

"These partnerships enable us to provide services in a place that isn't as highly populated as Grand Rapids," said Roberta Teahen, dean of Ferris' Center for Extended Learning. "People are recognizing the importance of education for success."

Ferris has also established a hospitality certification program centered on casino management for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and is working with Montcalm Community College and Michigan Works to develop a program to retrain displaced Electrolux workers in Greenville.

GRCC, meanwhile, has established partnerships with several universities at dozens of different levels to better serve its students. '

"The reason we work to maintain and build partnerships is to enable our students to make transitions easier into the next phase of their academic lives," GRCC Provost Velvie Green said. "We want to avoid duplication of resources - pool our resources to make students' lives as easy as possible."

Like Ferris, much of GRCC's efforts have been in keeping students within their hometowns. Through agreements with Davenport University, Spring Arbor College and Northwood University, as well as concurrent enrollment with GVSU and Ferris, GRCC students are able to stay in the Grand Rapids area longer and with less expense.

"A lot of people go to community college because they don't want to leave their community or because the tuition rates are lower than options otherwise," Green said.

"They have families, jobs - they are committed to the community. We work with the other institution to allow them to remain in their own community as long as possible."

Through GRCC's Thompson M-TEC in Holland - built through a partnership with the Ottawa Intermediate School District - and the Careerline Tech Center across the street, GRCC is able to serve many Ottawa County students close to home.

GRCC has offered a number of general education courses at Careerline for several years, but this year it added general education classes at the M-TEC. The increase in the number of classes in Holland will alleviate burdens on the downtown campus in terms of traffic, while cutting the students' commute.

The most exciting educational expansions to come may revolve largely around the growing Grand Rapids health-care community, especially with the possible arrival of the MSU medical school.

"I'm hopeful that Michigan State's medical school works out here," GVSU president Mark Murray said. "I think it would be a great asset to our community. But in terms of our future, we're primarily focused on our Center for Health Sciences and to see all those programs strengthened."

"It's a grand concept we all want to assist in," Eisler said. "But it's too early to tell what those relationships will be at this point."

Western Michigan University has worked hard to keep its undergraduate programs in Kalamazoo, but its graduate programs have flourished in Grand Rapids.

With two campuses in Grand Rapids, WMU recently partnered with Lansing's Cooley Law School to bring the first full law degree program to Grand Rapids.

At the same time, GVSU formed a partnership with Michigan State and MSU-DCL Law School to form the Legal Education Institute of West Michigan. Although offering different services, the similarity between the two initiatives angered some of the GVSU administration.

"Now we're trying to build greater partnerships, for instance with the Van Andel Institute," WMU president Judy Bailey said. "I do not want to duplicate what Grand Valley is already doing, or what they have historically done."

"I'm really looking more at research commercialization partnerships than I am, at this moment, the next academic partner."

WMU also hosts Ferris' pharmacy program in Kalamazoo.

Calvin College and Hope College have formed a number of programs together in recent years, many of which have grown into separate entities. The nursing program was recently split into two separate offerings, while the joint dining service operation, Creative Dining Service, has expanded past both colleges into a company serving seven states.

