

STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 9, 2012

Present: Dan Burcham, Mike Cairns, Sara Dew, Renee Douglas, Elise Gramza, Cindy Horn, Kathy Lake, Kristin Norton, Angie Roman, Kristen Salomonson, Mark Schuelke, Linda Telfer, and Leroy Wright.

Absent: Matt Chaney and Alli Witucki.

Controlling Costs to our Students/Reducing Student Loan Debt

Dan Burcham thanked President Eisler for attending our meeting and indicated that President Eisler has provided more funding for our students, and this will be discussed later in the meeting. President Eisler explained that students' loan debts are hitting our student hard. Below is the average loan debt for the various degrees at Ferris:

Associates	\$21,057
Bachelors	\$26,372
Masters	\$22,811
Professional	\$65,087
Petersen Survey	\$35,468

It was noted that the above average loan debts do not include parent loans; however, it does include personal loans.

President Eisler indicated that we need to look at family income of our students as over 50% of our students get Pell Grants and we have over 800 TIP students. He also noted that we need to look at how long it takes for a student to complete a degree. Students need 120 credit hours to graduate. Below are the average credit hours that FSU students have when graduating:

FTIAC – B.S. Graduate	139.3
Transfer – B.S. Graduate	144.7

President Eisler noted that general fund support for students went from \$6 million in FY03 to \$19 million in FY11. He asked our directors to share ways that we could assist in controlling costs or assisting our students regarding this issue. Following are the comments:

- Financial Aid will be talking about the Parent Loan availability upfront. This is a loan that parents can get for students under 24 years of age. She reminded everyone that many of our students are over 24 years old.
- A Financial Aid literacy page will be developed which should encourage students to think about their spending before they actually spend their funds. It was noted that many of our students are sending money home to their family.

- Make sure that students are on the right track by Academic Advising.
- Providing more student wages enabling students to work more.
- Educate Student Affairs student employees about their loan debt since we deal with them on a more personal level.
- Encourage more students to pursue the Bachelors degree in Integrated Studies which evaluates past work and learning that the students have completed.
- Many students go into the Masters program instead of paying their debt. It was noted that Financial Aid is attending the Master's level orientation.

President Eisler indicated that we also need to look at the time it takes to complete a degree. If we can take off one year, it will make a big difference. He noted the following that could be:

- Examine debt burden of students and develop a measure that prevents students for accruing large amounts of debt.
- Educate new students and their parents on the effects of excessive loan debt and the options for reducing higher education costs.
- Reduce time to degree with attention of our students move through a program.
- Review and rebalance institutional financial aid in the context of student debt.
- Maintain academic quality and manage instructional costs.
- Manage administrative and non-instructional costs.
- Restrain overall compensation increases
- Restrain tuition increases.
- Restrain room and board increases.
- Review program and textbook costs. Less than ½ of our students buy textbooks.

Others comments:

- While student debt results from a variety of factors especially living costs, increases in tuition will be the main point of focus. We need to help our students to be in a better place educationally and financially.
- We need to engage all of our communities in raising scholarship and financial support.
- Need to maintain enrollment to sustain revenue or we will face budget challenges. The President is asking everyone to assist with this. He asked that all directors encourage their staff to attend his sessions.

Retain students by:

- Moving students into higher level classes to obtain a full workload.
- Reviewing programs to see how many students are actually in that program and how many graduate.
- Developing a critical number of students to enroll in each program to attain sustainability.
- Faculty engaging in the advisor role instead of saying they don't have time. It was suggested that advising be done through FSUS.
- Faculty reviewing if a student really needs to retake a class or was the grade they received good enough.

- Developing “something” so that the students can see what their loan debt will be.
- Financial Aid attending a Housing staff meeting to get the Hall Directors on board with this.
- Revisiting the transfer credits as many credits do not transfer to Ferris.

The directors were asked to meet with their staff and send the suggestions to Linda as soon as possible.

Emergency Planning

Dan Burcham explained that the Emergency Policy Group met to discuss the bomb scare incident. Dan indicated that when he knows something has happened, he calls Mike to give him the heads up. Then the directors are called. The minute the Communication Center is hearing something, Dan or a designee needs to find out what they are hearing. The Communication Center is instructed to say that they have no formal statement by the university at this time. They can acknowledge that the University is aware of the problem/issue and they would hope to have a statement in the next few minutes. Discussion followed on the fact that social media is used by the students and that the University is taking too long in their response. Dan explained that he has chronicled the events and asked the directors for their feedback on the last incident. Following are their comments:

- Too busy answering phones to do anything asked of them. Seems like everyone is calling everyone.
- City Watch is very inconsistent and takes way too long for a message to begin.
- Special Note: Dan indicated that if he is not here, the directors are to take action anyway.
- Building should have been evacuated where the call came in to; however, Student Affairs called a staff meeting there.
- Professors were marking students absent if they were not in class. Some students had to work in the halls during this situation.
- There were text messaging issues even if the students had been receiving the texts previously.
- Ferris needs to use Facebook to get a brief statement out there.

CSAO Meeting

Dan Burcham indicated that he would be attending the Chief Student Affairs Officers meeting and asked if there were questions that the directors would like asked. Below are their responses:

- How are they dealing with student wage budgets?
- How are they handling SAP relative to Student Affairs?
- How do students get transported for mental health issues (voluntary or involuntary) and who pays for it?
- What does the University do if services are not available for the above?
- How do other institutions fund their recreational sports (intramurals or club sports)?

- What are they doing about a Title IX Coordinator? (Full-time or part-time, to whom do they report?)

Financial Aid Update

Sara Dew announced that she has received additional funding:

- \$200,000 more for summer student employment, \$50,000 of that will be for the Student Affairs Student Employee initiative.
- \$200,000 additionally in one-time need-based grants for summer.
- \$500,000 additionally for FY13 in need-based grants.
- \$300,000 additionally for FY13 for student employment.

Student Employee Initiative

Angie Roman indicated that they will be continuing the Professional Trainee Program for next year. **The directors were encouraged to submit their information to her so that students can be hired before the end of the semester.** They have found it beneficial if the students can start prior to Fall semester. Dan encouraged the directors to hire students now while they are students instead of when they graduate. This will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Higher Educational Reauthorization Act Requirements Website

Kristen Salomonson demonstrated the HEA requirement link on the IR&T website. Ferris is now in compliance.

Enrollment Update

Kristen Salomonson distributed the Fall 2012 application statistics. Currently we are 606 applications ahead of last year and up 434 in admits with most of them being on the Big Rapids campus.

Announcements

Kristen Salomonson

- Working on the NSSE right now. Sent out the initial survey plus one reminder. Other reminders will go out February 12, 20 and 28. Currently at a 23% response rate compared to 12% last time.

Kathy Lake

- Held two new student open houses: one in Detroit with 270 attendees and the other in Grand Rapids with 240. Last one will be in Big Rapids on February 22 with an expected participation of 300.

- Dawg Day is this Saturday with over 260 participants. Will be splitting people between The Rock and a campus tour.

Sara Dew

- Working on 2012-2013. FAFSAs loaded into Banner with 5,709 compared to last year at 4,666.
- Next week, e-mail notifications will be sent to scholarship students for accepting their scholarship. Awarding will follow.

Cindy Horn

- Fern Labra is working on a picture project for the Rec Center with Bill Bitzinger to have pictures hung of students in intramurals, club sports, and in the rec center.
- Working with club sports on developing a banner that will be hung in the Rec Center.

Mike Cairns

- Will be meeting tomorrow with all the commencement coordinators to discuss the May commencement.
- Shared a story about Dan Hurley and a Facebook situation.

Angie Roman

- Career Week is going well. Business and Technology Career Fair has 80 registered, Health Care Career Fair has 2, and Public Service Career Fair has 3 registered. Optometry students are not happy with others using their building as this will disrupt them. Also will be having a blood drive at the Health Care Career Fair by Michigan Blood which has a traveling bus. Discussion followed on the problems the other directors are having with the Red Cross.

Renee Douglas

- Trying to have both the Counseling Center and Birkam Health Center collaborate and merge as one unit.
- Will be participating in the Health Care Career Fair.
- Will be participating in Dawg Days.
- Had a team photograph taken.

Mark Schuelke

- Multicultural Student Services and Student Conduct needs to work on their Continuity plans.

Kristin Norton

- DPS believes that they have identified the person who placed the bomb scare call. His UCD will be next week.
- Conducting a faculty survey to gather information on how faculty feel about the Student Conduct Office, how satisfied they are with the office, and if they have referred a student to the office. Kristin indicated that IR&T could not send out the survey only to faculty. Kristin will contact Vicky Deur as this can be done.
- Tom Liszewski is developing a new program and has received a call for 1016 who has received a “Prime for Life” grant to do more education on campus which we are calling Choices 2.0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Telfer
Executive Secretary to the
Vice President for Student Affairs