FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FERRIS FORWARD

Dean's Update | Librarian's Meeting | March 22, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide updates with you today despite my inability to be present. My absence today is due to a conflict with a previously scheduled session I committed to facilitate nearly seven months ago as part of Ferris' Spring 2022 Student Success Series.

I look forward to reviewing the meeting minutes and to knowing your input and feedback.

Dean's Response to March 2, 2022 Faculty Letter

First, I received on March 3, 2022, and very much appreciated, your collective communication concerning personnel. Consistent with my efforts since joining FLITE, I will continue to advocate and to articulate our needs and opportunities with colleagues in Academic Affairs and throughout our campus community.

We agree there are system needs. With the upcoming retirement of our colleague, Ms. Rosen, we will have another need. Because our current reality finds us in the midst of significantly lower student enrollment, resource compression abounds. Given multiple years of declining credit hour production, there are fewer resources available across all colleges and programs.

As you know, FLITE experienced the departure of colleagues the past few years. Following these departures, a reduction in available position lines occurred as part of balancing the overall university budget. At present, there is no available, funded, position in FLITE for additional faculty personnel, and it is my understanding that no such available, funded position lines exist elsewhere for reallocation. I will, however, certainly explore and confirm these details.

As you suggest, and I would very much appreciate, it would be helpful to know within the next few weeks, your recommended prioritization given the reality that we will have only one, vacant, funded, position line as a result of Ms. Rosen's retirement.

Library Technical Services Specialist Search

Thank you to Ms. Dejah Rubel and Mr. Paul Kammerdiner for chairing this search process and to Dr. Peter Bradley, Ms. Kelly McNeill and Ms. Chelsea Mitchell for serving on the search committee. As part of the process, we will welcome a final candidate to campus on March 28, 2022.

Student/Patron Computer Upgrades
Following review of our existing patron computer inventory, FLITE will upgrade hardware with an investment in 38 new computers (34 PC and 4 Macs) and 34 monitors. Funding for these improvements comes from available, one-time, dollars and totals $38,985.42.

FLITE Continuity Plan & Emergency Response Planning
Thank you to all who provided input the past few months as the safety committee worked to build FLITE's first building continuity plan. This plan will help support our work in the unlikely event of a major, catastrophic disaster. In coming months, the committee will begin to outline details for emergency notifications and proposed plans for annualized training to help ensure our readiness to act in the event of an emergency – incidents that many include fire, tornado, active shooter, medical, etc.

Thank you for your service!
Please join me recognizing Mr. Paul Kammerdiner and Ms. Heather Symon Basset. As we conclude this academic year, Paul celebrates 20 years of service and Heather concludes her first half-decade.

Respectfully submitted.
J. Bentley, Interim Dean of FLITE