



PRESS RELEASES: Ferris State University's Board of Trustees Approves Construction Projects , Renews GRCC/ATC Lease

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included below are two press releases containing information from this afternoon's Ferris State University Board of Trustees meetings in Big Rapids. Any questions regarding these press releases can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
March 25, 2011

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Ferris Board of Trustees Approves Campus Projects

BIG RAPIDS – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees approved several campus projects, including the relocation of Telecommunications, replacing part of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the Rock Café and the demolition of Pennock Hall, the former home of the Michigan College of Optometry, during its meeting today (March 25).

The relocation of Telecommunications is part of the university's planned renovation of the Rankin Student Center to become the new campus University Center. The project calls for Ferris' Telecommunications and the university network infrastructure to be moved from the basement of Masselink Hall to Rankin. The renovation of a portion of Rankin and relocation of some offices to other locations will be necessary. The demolition of Masselink and Carlisle halls will create parking for the new UC. These projects are expected to span multiple fiscal years as part of the Campus Master Plan.

“The movement of the Telecommunications and university network infrastructure is an important first step in the broader redevelopment of this corner of the campus,” said Jerry Scoby, vice president of Administration and Finance. “The intention is to complete the Telecommunications and university network infrastructure relocation during the 2011-12 academic year with a seamless cutover during the summer of 2012.”

The university network infrastructure supports critical campus services such as emergency phones, fire-and life-safety monitoring, emergency messaging to classrooms, student identification carding for access to residence halls and dining, internet connectivity, voice systems, and other less critical systems such as cable television, and building environmental control and monitoring.

The total project cost for the relocation of Telecommunications, the limited renovation of Rankin Center to accommodate the move and the temporary relocation of the existing offices is estimated at just under \$3.4 million.

Also on Friday, trustees also approved improvements to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning for The Rock Café and The Market at a cost not to exceed \$170,000. The results of this project will provide appropriate air quality and space temperatures. The HVAC renovation is anticipated to provide conditioned air as recommended in the original proposal for The Rock Café as prepared by the university's Physical Plant. The funding for this project will be provided through existing auxiliary fund maintenance reserve dollars.

Ferris trustees also approved the demolition of Pennock Hall as envisioned as the final phase of the construction of the new MCO building. Parking expansion, which will add 75 new spaces, was added to this project.

“Given the significant capital renewal and deferred maintenance needs in the facility, we determined that it would be more cost effective to tear the building down rather than invest significant money into a renovation of it for a new programmatic purpose,” Scoby said. “One of the positive opportunities created with the demolition of Pennock Hall is to improve the student parking in that portion of the campus.”

The additional parking is expected to be available for the start of the Fall 2011 semester.

The Diversity at Ferris 2010 annual assessment, as part of the university's Diversity Plan, was presented to the trustees. The annual assessment monitors and assesses the university's progress toward achieving the goals of the Diversity Plan's four strategic goals: create a university that is welcoming to diverse populations; recruit, retain and graduate a diverse student population; hire and retain a diverse workforce; and create environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to diverse student populations.

In other business, the board approved the following:

- authorization, upon legal review and approval, to accept the Frey Foundation grant award on behalf of the Board of Trustees, in the amount of \$350,000.00, and administer it. Ferris received confirmation from the Frey Foundation of its support of a grant proposal to support the reinvestment campaign to restore and renovate the historic Federal Building for the Kendall College of Art and Design. The amount awarded under this grant is \$350,000. The term of funds availability for this grant award is from September 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012;
- an agreement with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC to manage the university's bookstores, and to grant the exclusive right to operate and manage the bookstores for a period of five years with a renewal option of one additional five-year term;
- authorization for the vice president of Administration and Finance or his designee, to negotiate and enter into agreements for Sign Language Interpretation Services in the amount of \$100,000 each with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of Grand Rapids and Michigan Sign Language Interpreter Network, upon legal review and approval.

The next full meeting of the board is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 13.

- 30 -

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Ferris Trustees Approve Renewal of Lease Agreement with GRCC

BIG RAPIDS – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees approved the renewal of a lease agreement with Grand Rapids Community College for space at the Applied Technology Center in Grand Rapids for up to four additional five-year terms during its meeting today (March 25). Ferris trustees also approved the award of an honorary Ferris doctorate in Business and Industry to Ken Mooyman and an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from Kendall College of Art and Design for Peter Lawrence to be awarded in May 2011.

Ferris and GRCC have had a lease agreement in place since 1989 and an initial 20-year lease term commenced on July 17, 1991 with four additional five-year automatic renewal terms. That agreement expires July 16, 2011 for the space located at 143 Bostwick NE, Grand Rapids. The first renewal commences on July 17, 2011.

“The Applied Technology Center was the first example of a two-year college and a four-year state university joining together to develop an educational resource of such magnitude,” said Don Green, vice president for Extended and International Operations at Ferris. “The ATC has served as a model for similar facilities across the nation.

“We appreciate the powerful partnership we share with Grand Rapids Community College,” he added. “Our collaboration provides economic advantages to West Michigan students and the community.”

Ferris plans to continue to utilize space in the ATC for offices and instructional facilities for the College of Professional and Technological Studies during the next five-year term and beyond. Currently, the leased space houses approximately 98 full-and part-time employees and provides instructional space for approximately 1,000 Ferris students.

“Ferris has enjoyed a great partnership with Grand Rapids Community College for an extended period of time including leasing space in the Applied Technology Center for the last 20 years,” said Jerry Scoby, vice president for Administration and Finance. “This space is incredibly important to our off-campus programming.”

“This site is very important to us in our off-campus programming as well as our Grand Rapids

presence with the proximity to our Kendall College of Art and Design, and the current renovation of the former Federal Building for Kendall College of Art and Design programming,” he added.

Trustees approved the honorary doctorate degree for Mooyman, who currently is president and CEO of Leica Geosystems Inc., which has its Americas Region Headquarters based in Norcross, Ga. As president and CEO, he is responsible for Leica Geosystems Surveying, Machine Control, Scanning, Construction and Geospatial businesses in North and Central America. University officials considered Mooyman’s service to his industry and passion for Ferris as truly reflective of his dedication and commitment to education and service.

KCAD selected Lawrence, of the Corporate Design Foundation of Boston, as a recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Arts degree. School officials base the selection of Lawrence on its criteria of choosing individuals who have significantly impacted the quality of art and design.

Trustees also approved sabbatical leave requests for the following faculty and projects:

College of Arts and Sciences: Sandra Brigance, Fall, 2011; John Jablonski, Spring 2012

College of Business: Lianne Briggs, Fall 2011 through Spring 2012; Ann Gilley, Spring 2012.

College of Engineering Technology: Patrick English, Fall 2011, pending internship acceptance.

College of Education and Human Services: Nancy Lashaway-Bokina, Fall 2011; Hikaru Murata, Fall 2011.

College of Pharmacy: Mary Frances Ross, Fall 2011 through Spring 2012 (and possibly Summer 2012) – pending program acceptance.

In other business, the board approved the following:

- acceptance of a grant from the DTE Energy Foundation for the purpose of renovating a suitably-sized museum space for its Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. The University received a challenge grant from the DTE Energy Foundation in the total amount of \$250,000; Trustees approved that funding for this project which will include the original University contribution for design of \$100,000, the DTE grant, other gifts to date of \$147,000, additional ongoing fundraising, and the University providing funding to complete the project for a total project cost not to exceed \$1.1 million;
- the recommendation of the president that the Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing be closed, as of the end of Summer 2011 semester because of insufficient demand for the program;
- granted conditional approval to resolutions which conditionally authorized the execution

of Contracts with the following public charter school academies: Benton Harbor Charter School, in Benton Harbor; Bridge Academy, in Hamtramck; Clara B. Ford Academy, in Dearborn Heights; Creative Technologies Academy, in Cedar Springs; Francis Reh Academy, in Saginaw; George Crockett Academy, in Detroit; Hope Academy of West Michigan, in Grand Rapids; Hope of Detroit Academy, Huron Academy, of Sterling Heights; Joy Preparatory Academy, of Detroit; Lighthouse Academy, of Kentwood; Northridge Academy, of Flint; Pierre Toussaint Academy, of Detroit; and Voyageur Academy, of Detroit;

- new appointments of Katherine Crossley to Clara B. Ford Academy, Richard Hill, Joshua Keagle, and Jessie Stegger to George Crockett Academy, Minika Benning of Voyageur Academy and David Leach to Huron Academy and 22 reappointments for the Board of Directors of FSU-Authorized Charter Schools;
- endorsed and approved recommended changes to the Academic Senate Charter, as presented. The overall recommendations include changes related to the Non-Tenure Track Instructional Faculty representation; Senate Election Committee Appointments; election of Senators, election to the Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee; and
- to replace the current policy that would give the university president the authority to approve two types of international agreements: general memorandums of understanding and student and/or faculty exchange agreements

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- 30 -

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