

MINUTES
Staff Senate Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2005
12:00 – 1:30pm Lear Auditorium

Departments represented: Advancement, Architecture, Engineering Dean, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Library, Math and Computer Science, President's Office, Provost's Office, VITRC

The Minutes from the November 15 Staff Senate meeting were read and approved.

Marilyn Hotaling gave a brief report on the Giving Tree, the first Community Outreach Committee event of the year. 150 tags were taken and over 150 gifts were returned. She extended thank you's to Brent Bishop for supplying the punch, and to Michelle Juras, Beth Gierada, Martha Thompson, Leslie Michalik, and Aleta Mack for their help on flyers, posters and gift intake.

Dr. Lewis Walker, the first guest speaker, gave an extensive report on LTU enrollment. Among the enrollment statistics he presented were:

- Total Headcount, Graduate Students, New Students, and New Transfer enrollments were up
- Credit hours were down 1.00% and FTIACS were down 1.5% compared with 1 year ago
- Architecture is up 4.48% - we are at our limit until new studios are added
- Arts & Sciences down 7.79%; Engineering and Management are down slightly
- Major expansion programs overseas in India and China have been added, with future possibilities in Ukraine and Saudi Arabia
- Factors affecting enrollment: LTU's large graduating classes (over 900 for the past two years), more transfer students taking fewer credits, some of our contributing companies have reduced or eliminated their reimbursement programs, fewer high school graduates (projected to continue dropping through 2012), negative media coverage on increased 4-year college tuition and negative press regarding fields where we are strong

Dr. Walker reported that LTU has added the following new degree programs: Communications Engineering Technology, Chemical Biology, Biomedical Engineering, International Business, and Masters in Educational Technology. New programs being considered: Media Communications, Nursing, Health Science, Natural Science, Alternative Energy, Industrial Engineering, Telecommunications, Automotive Design, Energy and Environmental Management, and Urban Design. He mentioned that Ford Motor Co. is considering major financial support to the potential new Automotive Design Program. Ford has requested that engineers be given a more creative background and designers be trained more technically.

Other topics covered:

- If Spring '06 enrollment is down, LTU may have to resort to cost-cutting measures in order to keep the budget balanced
- Infrastructure repairs in 2004-05: Buell Building roof (\$260,000), Ridler Fieldhouse renovation (\$75,000), Architecture Building drainage system, Arts & Sciences elevators
- According to the Epic MRA report, 28% of Michigan parents feel that it isn't important that their children go on to college

Lisa Kujawa, the second guest speaker, reported on LTU's recent cross-college agreements with Henry Ford Community College, Schoolcraft CC, Oakland CC, and Macomb CC. Partnerships have been formed with DCX, Lansing Community College, Yazaki North America, and several area high schools (Brother Rice, Bishop Foley, Marian, Mercy, and Shrine). She suggested that no other college is doing this much outreach. Lisa reported that the new Taubman Student Service Center will be ready for occupancy in February, with the building dedication on April 7, 2006. In ending, Lisa reiterated the U Serving You approach – that students are at the center. She invited anyone to recommend any student with financial, registration, or housing issues be sent to her office for help in resolving these problems.

Linda Wareck, Chair of the Staff Recognition Committee, awarded the December Staff Member of the Month to Joni Starr of the Engineering Dean's Office. Marilyn Hotaling won the Christmas wreath raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm

Submitted by Marilyn Hotaling