

Knowles Notes

January 17, 2020

Greetings and congratulations on completing the first week of the new semester! Here is what has been happening in the Provost's Office this week:

- The President's Cabinet had their first meeting of the new year on Monday, January 13. They continued their campus tour at Schneider Hall and had a chance to mingle with the faculty and staff of the Haworth College of Business.
 - The cabinet met with representatives from Gilbane Building Company to continue discussions regarding the development and goals of Hilltop Village and Arcadia Flats. For more information about current construction projects, visit the Facilities Management [website](#).
 - Additional agenda items included a commencement recap, community engagement, and continued employee engagement efforts.
- Provost's Council also held their first meeting of the year this week. Several guests accepted invitations to share the following updates and planning efforts:
 - Carrie Cumming, Registrar, joined to speak about the Dunbar renovations and its affect on course scheduling. Dunbar is the highest trafficked building on campus and the loss of this space for the next couple of years will require a different approach to course scheduling.
 - Jessica Swartz, Associate General Counsel, led a discussion regarding free speech and Operation Responsible Engagement. Operation Responsible Engagement, a work group led by the Office of Government Relations, has been hard at work over the past several months to proactively plan for responsible engagement in the upcoming election.
 - The Provost also provided updates on corporate and employee engagement efforts.
- The Provost attended the [Vandenberg Prize Award ceremony](#) in Grand Rapids to witness Ambassador Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. accept the first Vandenberg Prize, an award given by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. This prize will be given annually to a "national or international leader who has been influential in developing global understanding and collaboration on the world stage."
- The Provost and VP Anderson met with the staff members of both the Center for Academic Success Programs and Career and Student Employment Services to continue discussions aimed at implementing suggestions coming out of the Think Big initiative.