

## Archive

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**From:** Sandy C Gholston  
**Sent:** Friday, May 09, 2014 1:09 PM  
**To:** Archive  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASES: Ferris State University Board of Trustees Approves Tuition Rates, Strategic Plan

Included below are TWO press releases from today's Ferris State University Board of Trustees meetings held on the Big Rapids campus. Highlights include the announcement of tuition rates for the 2014-15 academic year, an update on progress toward expansion of the Welding facilities on campus and information about the University's Strategic Plan for the future. Any media requests regarding this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.

To read the online version of the general story, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/may/bot1.htm>

To read the online version of the general story, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/may/bot2.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2014

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### **Trustees Approve Vision for Ferris State University's Future**

BIG RAPIDS – The Ferris State University board of trustees approved an endorsement of the University Strategic Plan during its regular meeting on Friday, May 9. The plan, which begins with the University's core values of collaboration, diversity, ethical community, excellence, learning and opportunity, operates in three parts. Part one represents strategic thinking and focus areas for Ferris' future. Part two will detail the plan's implementation phase. Part three will track successes and measure accomplishments. The strategic plan provides a framework that allows Ferris community members to contribute to the focus areas and to realize Ferris' core values as individuals and colleagues.

The trustees also approved the administration's request to proceed with pre-construction design and other services related to the Swan Building Annex renovation project. The proposed expansion will double the instructional and laboratory space for the University's award-winning welding engineering technology program and create a Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

The Swan Annex, the primary home of the Welding Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Technology programs, requires additional program space to serve current student enrollment, expand enrollment to ease the student waiting list, and to address industry demand for graduates.

The trustees' approval will allow the administration to competitively bid, negotiate and contract for construction management and architectural and engineering design services up through and including the preparation of bid documents for construction at a cost not to exceed \$275,000. This will be funded from central university funds. The Swan Building Annex renovation project was the top-rated university capital outlay proposal submitted to the State of Michigan and will require planning and funding authorization by legislative Joint Capital Outlay Committee and Governor Rick Snyder, who toured the Swan Building facilities in April.

Board of Trustees Chair Gary Granger noted positive developments at Ferris, including recent awards from the *Grand Rapids Business Journal* and the Grand Rapids Center for Community Leadership in recognition of the university's initiatives in west Michigan.

"The university is an increasingly important resource for our region," Granger said. "Under President Eisler Ferris has seen enrollment growth, increased graduation rates and tuition restraint. The continuity of leadership he has provided has been pivotal to the university's growing prestige."

In other news, trustees approved:

- an extension of David L. Eisler's contract as university president through June 30, 2019. Trustees also increased the president's base compensation by 2.25 percent. Eisler is in his eleventh year of service as Ferris president, a post he assumed in July 2003;
- professional services contracts to begin searches to fill the positions of provost and vice president for Academic Affairs and president of Kendall College of Art and Design;
- a KCAD Master of Arts and graduate certificate in Visual and Critical Studies program for implementation Fall 2014;
- new off-campus degree locations at Henry Ford Community College, in Dearborn and Washtenaw Community College, in Ann Arbor;
- a project management contract for capital projects in academic spaces. The contract includes design, construction, and other services and the purchase of necessary furniture, fixtures and equipment; and
- conditional reauthorization of Voyageur Academy, a Detroit-based charter school that was conditionally authorized by trustees on May 8, 1998; adding grade 5 to Great Lakes Anchor Academy, in Mt. Clemens; the name change of Benton Harbor Charter School to Benton Harbor Charter School Academy; six new appointments to the boards of directors of Ferris-authorized charter school academies.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be by conference call on Tuesday, July 8 beginning at 10 a.m.

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## **Trustees Approve Tuition, Room and Board Rates for 2014-15 Academic Year**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Board of Trustees approved a tuition rate increase of 2.19 percent for lower-division courses for the 2014-15 academic year during its regular meeting on Friday, May 9 in Big Rapids. New rates include a 2.97-percent increase for upper-division courses for an average increase of 2.58 percent.

Trustees also approved a preliminary 2014-15 general fund operating budget of \$206.9 million as supported by a 7.8-percent (\$3.6 million) increase in state funding as recommended in the state’s executive budget recommendation in addition to the tuition increases. The preliminary budget includes a FY15 appropriation of \$49.2 million – including the \$3.6 million through the state performance funding model. The performance funding components include producing critical skills graduates and the Carnegie Scored Metrics (six-year graduation rates, efficiency, degrees conferred and Pell students). A third factor is the restoration of prior reductions.

The University projects a student assistance budget increase of \$1.5 million to \$19.9 million in support of the continued growth of the Woodbridge N. Ferris scholarship that includes \$500,000 for scholarship renewal increases, inflation on continuing scholarship amounts and \$500,000 for new student aid.

Board Chair Gary Granger expressed his gratitude for state support which allows Ferris to keep tuition rates low and provide additional financial assistance for students.

“Overall state funding is increased, and we are seeing state support in recognition of our success on performance metrics,” Granger said. “Michigan appreciates the critical role Ferris plays in helping prepare the highly educated and skilled workforce the state needs to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and be globally competitive.”

Trustees also approved a housing and dining budget of \$35.2 million for 2014-15. This includes funding for residence halls, East Campus Suites, South and West campus apartments, and dining. In October 2013, trustees approved a 2.9 percent increase in the room and board rates for the upcoming 2014-15 academic year. The most popular room and board plan for students is the silver/bronze plan that has a rate of \$9,168 up from the 2013-14 amount of \$8,910.

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