

**Minutes
 Ferris State University
 Academic Senate Meeting
 MCO 210
 December 2nd, 2014**

Members in Attendance: ALSPACH, CHARLES BACON, MARY BACON, BAJOR, BALANDA, BARAN, BERGHOEF, BRANDLY, BRECKEN, DAKKURI, DAUBERT, DINARDO, DRAKE, FAGERMAN, FOX, GROVES, HANNA, HARLAN, ING, ISLER, JENEROU, KLATT, MARION, MOORE, PIERCEY, POTTER, RICHMOND, RUMPF, SIAPUSH, THAPA, TOWER, WAGENHEIM, WANCOUR, YOWITZ

Members absent with cause: BAKER, GRIFFIN

Members absent: FADAYOMI, TODD

Ex Officio and Guests: Adeyanju, Blake, Durst, Eisler, Krutz, Nicol, Potter, Reifert, Schult, Teahen, Weller, Schmidt, Dawson, Haneline, Franklund, Williams, Saladin, Urbanick

1.	President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Moore moved to approve the November 2014 minutes. Piercey seconded. Motion passed.
3.	Open Forum Senator Alspach announced the Beyond Diversity Program, Wednesday December 3rd at 6:30pm in IRC 120. Students in COMM 365 Intercultural Communication and international students in ESLP 013 Speaking/Listening L3 from the West Michigan English Language Institute (WMiELI) share their semester project as partners learning about each other's culture.
4.	Officer Reports A. President Khagendra Thapa thanked those that came to the APRC meeting. B. Vice-President Bacon reported that the international education committee is looking at academic issues with regard to study abroad and accountability. The distinguished teacher committee will not have an awardee due to the lack of nominations. Senator Fagerman pointed out that there could be improvement on how online teachers they are nominated. Senator Hanna encouraged the Senate to review the notes of the Distinguished Teacher task force that convened a few years ago. C. Secretary Dinardo the faculty voted to approve the current revisions to the Senate Charter and they will go to the FSU Board of Directors in a few weeks. Stay tuned next semester for an Open Forum session in which everyone will be invited to give input on an additional Senate Charter revision.
5.	Committee Reports A. Student Government Representative Cory Saladin announced pancakes with the President on December 8 th at 10pm. A canned food drive was being hosted in the IRC. There was not much support but the organization is planning on learning from mistakes and doing it next semester. The organization will also be meeting with RSO's to increase student participation and Dog Days. B. Clifton Franklund. General Education Coordinator stated that there was not much to report at this time. He is still meeting with stakeholders including groups in Business, Humanities, and Communication. He is in the process of writing a preliminary draft of the revised Gen Ed plan.

6.	<p>Academic Amnesty for Undergraduate Students Peter Balanda and Susan Wancour from the Academic Standards and Policies committee thanked everyone for their advice at the last meeting. Representatives in Financial Aid enumerated numerous issues that the Academic Amnesty Policy would create. Therefore, they removed it as a voting issue at this time in light of the new information. Once more details are hashed out, it will be brought back to the Senate. Senator Hanna pointed out that the minimum 12 hours is contrary to 15 credit hour minimum for an associates degree and the 30 minimum for a bachelors degree at FSU. Wancour responded that the count was for the credits previously earned towards the degree, not the grades. Senator Berghoef asked what their committee's role would be going forward. The committee will ask someone who knows more about the policies and discrepancies brought up, then report back.</p> <p>Roberta Tehan Associate Provost 2014 NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) Highlights. NSSE has been an instrument to monitor student's perceptions of their interactions with FSU since 2005. Reports are available online at the Academic Affairs site up to 2013. Bob Buckingham is working on sifting data by program. Freshman are not responding at the same level as seniors (254 vs 764). NSSE only surveys degree-seeking students at the bachelorette level. Unfortunately, many Freshman are in two year programs. However, there was a good response rate overall, (1/3 Seniors). Dr. Tehan reviewed respondent characteristics. There were more females and an over-representation of Health Professions students. Bob Buckingham is in the process of recategorizing by actual program names. Encouraging news: FSU is average across the board. Higher in presentations given by students and instructors giving substantial detailed feedback. 92% of Freshman and 85% of Seniors rated the entire experience as excellent or good. Dr. Teahan encouraged Senators to look at data in the context of their individual programs. She then reviewed areas students said were strengths and weaknesses. Discussions with Diverse Others was well below the standard. There is a concern that FSU is not diverse. One problem, again, is that 2 year programs were not surveyed. Dr. Teahan stated that, in alignment with FSU's vision, we ought to strive to improve these metrics in order to be viewed as the preferred premier University. FSU should strive for the top 10%. She pointed out areas of improvement if we were to be ranked in the top 10% vs top 50%. Overall, there was not a great amount of variation between colleges within the University. She reviewed leading and lagging indicators between programs. Of note, students reported that 14 hours per week when they should have been studying at least 24 hours outside of the classroom given the rule-of-thumb that for every hour of credit, two hours should be spent studying outside of class. She reiterated that there are many ways to interpret the data and that each person will have their their own perspectives of the data. President Eisler is concerned about sample size and asks Senators to spend time encouraging students to participate.</p>
7.	<p>Announcements</p> <p>A. President Eisler thanked Senators, the Executive Committee and Paula Hadley. He announced a shuttle service on campus. Senator Charles Bacon asked if handicapped individuals will be accommodated with the shuttle. President Eisler confirmed. There are 70 applicants for the Provost search. Interviews on campus start the week of Jan 19th. Monday night pancakes with the President will be held at the Rock. There will be a Holiday Reception Tuesday from 3-5pm in the IRC connector. He then encouraged Senators to come to Commencement. The University Center will open after Jan 1st. On Jan 16th, there will be an event for students after the hockey game with free food and fun. On Feb 20th, there will be a formal commissioning of building and dedication with Board of Trustees. Have a good break.</p> <p>B. Interim Provost Paul Blake announced that Peter Doms, strategic planning consultant, will be meeting with the Deans Council and University Leadership. The previous Strategic Planning sessions were highly beneficial. He wishes everyone a great close to the semester and respects the incredible amount of work the faculty do. Senator Charles Bacon relayed his concerns about the debt issue being used as a "weapon" against coordinators, threatening to close programs.</p>

8.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>A. President Thapa stated that part of Senate’s responsibility as an organization is faculty recognition. It was unfortunate that there was no Distinguished Teacher nominees and he hopes that Senators will respond, in kind, next year. The next meeting will be held at the University Center. President Eisler has assured us that the Senate will not be charged for the room.</p> <p>B. Senator Charles Bacon reminded everyone about the FFA annual luncheon on Jan 9th in the new University Center.</p> <p>C. Senator Drake asked with the APR is following its recommendations to see if administration is following them. The answer was that, beginning three years ago, the Provost produces a response to the recommendations one year after they have been submitted. President Thapa stated that administration has agreed to comply with recommendations.</p> <p>D. Senator Bajor stated that, although he was pleased with the practical aspects of the last APRC meeting, he is concerned about a few important statements made in the last APRC report leading to inconsistencies and discrepancies with the follow-through. One discrepancy revolves around learning outcomes. Senator Wagenheim said that he does not think there are inconsistencies. He said that he has never threatened to shut down a program due to learning outcomes. President Thapa decided that this will be on the agenda for the January meeting.</p>
9.	Meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Dinardo
Secretary