

Minutes

Ferris State University

Academic Senate Meeting

MCO 210

November 4, 2014

Members in Attendance: Alspach, Bacon, C., Bacon, M., Bajor, Baker, Balanda, Baran, Barnett, Berghoef, Brandly, Daubert, Dinardo, Drake, Fadayomi, Fagerman, Fox, Groves, Hanna, Harlan, Ing, Isler, Klatt, Piercey, Rumpf, Siahpush, Thapa, Todd, Tower, Wagenheim, Wancour
Members absent with cause: Brecken, Dakkuri, Griffin, Jenerou, Richmond, Yowitz
Members absent: None
Ex Officio and Guests: Blake, Damari, Durst, Eisler, Franklund, Kalinowski, Nicol, Reifert, Schult, Teahen, Weller, Brackett, Saladin, Dawson, Urbanick, Won, Williams
1. President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.
2. Approval of Minutes. Senator Dinardo moved to approve the October 7, 2014 minutes. Piercey seconded. Motion passed.
3. Open Forum
A. Alspach reminded the forum about ongoing activities of the Political Engagement Project
4. Officer Reports
A. President Khagendra Thapa relayed that, in response to Dr. Fagerman's suggestion, the Senate packet with the agenda was sent to everyone.
B. Vice-President Bacon stated that the Health Promotions Committee is looking for some direction. The Student Life Committee is tackling dual enrollment issues and "En Parente" Rules. VP Bacon is taking on the SAI task force.
C. Secretary Dinardo thanked Senators Rumpf, Isler, and Alspach for the help with the Charter Revision.
5. Committee Reports.

A. University Curriculum Committee Chair Kemi Fadayomi announced that there have been many proposals, but they are incomplete. The college curriculum chair should help in making sure that all proposals are complete before they go to the UCC. Otherwise, they will be held until completion. Form E is the most commonly missed form.

B. Student Government President Andrew Kalinowski introduced new treasurer, Benjamin Brackett. He is in charge of the readership program. Cory Saladin related that the student government has worked hard to be more involved with everyone across campus. There will be two upcoming events: Canned Food Drive and Let It Go. Contact Andrew K. if anyone is looking for student representatives or if you want to talk at a Student Government meeting. Pancakes with the President. Encouraged everyone present to participate or volunteer for Pancakes with the President. It will be on December 8th from 10pm-midnight. APRC will be presenting at an upcoming Student Government meeting to get input upon Roberta Teahan's recommendations. Senator Potter suggested that the SAI task force go to a Student Government meeting for feedback on the SAI/IDEA Forms.

C. Clifton Franklund. General Education Coordinator is continuing to work with the Gen Ed Committee and meeting with stakeholders across campus. We wishes to get as much feedback as possible but does not want to wear out his welcome. He encouraged all those who wish to have input to contact him directly. He has reduced the number of competency areas from 18 to 12 and subcommittees from 20 to 12. He is working on finalizing subcommittees. He is now tasked with reducing learning outcomes from 82-40.

D. Amy Dinardo and the Rules Committee, Review of Charter Revisions

Senator Dinardo reviewed the revisions, explaining the rationale for the changes. Melinda Isler reiterated that representation was consolidated based on the Unit to which the faculty reports in an effort to make it more evident who belongs to which College or Unit, particularly EIO. Along with that, Educational Counselors were moved the Counselors and Librarians Unit. A discussion ensued. There was some concern amongst Senators that faculty outside of the Big Rapids campus were not being included. Senator Hanna asked the Senate to consider changing the Charter so that each college had an equal representation of Senators. Senator Marion pointed out that if the number of Senators were reduced, it might lead to issues filling committee seats. Senator Piercey suggested that there might be communication challenges when larger colleges (such as Arts and Sciences) have fewer Senators. Some questioned if the current setup was truly a problem. Others had the opinion that the potential for a larger college to have more influence was a concern. Senator Wagenheim also suggested that the Charter have an explicit 3 year term for APRC and UCC Chairs. The reason being is that there is a lot of personal investment in learning the responsibilities of the positions. He also suggested that the Chairs have the ability to request reappointment and/or have a Senate majority vote along with the other elections in April instead of the Chairs being appointed by the Senate Executive Committee. Due to the fact that the goal of the current revision was minor changes, updates and cleaning up representation, President Thapa called for a vote on the original revisions. The original revisions passed by a majority vote. A second vote to task the Rules Committee with reviewing both Senator Hanna's and Wagenheim's suggestions in the near future passed by a majority vote.

6. Academic Amnesty for Undergraduate Students
<p>Peter Balanda and Susan Wancour reviewed the Request Form for Academic Amnesty generated by the Academic Policy and Standards Committee. He explained the concept of Amnesty and the circumstances to which it would apply. A few Senators expressed concerns about students getting a degree with low grades and ultimately, defrauding employers. Questions arose as to who would approve the student's request for amnesty. Would it be the college advisor, program director, or Dean? The Academic Policy and Standards Committee will revise the policy and Request Form based on the Senator's suggestions.</p>
7. Announcements
<p>A. President Eisler announced that student debt forums are underway. He encourages our participation. During the lame duck session, he is hopeful that Senator Booher will be able to move forward FSU's capital outlay plan. W reminded Senators that there is only one week between Thanksgiving and Finals week. He thanked Senators for their work and participation.</p>
<p>B. Interim Provost Paul Blake: The SPARC received feedback on informational session that the President presented to them, the Dean's Council, and Academic Leadership. There will be a Strategic Planning joint session at the start of the spring semester. He recognized Kemi Fadayomi and Trinity Williams for their work with the HERS (Women's Leadership) program.</p>
8. Open Forum
<p>A. Senator Alspach announced that the Sports Speakers Series will be held on Wednesday November 12th in BUS 111 at 7pm. The speaker will be Steve Kaminski.</p>
<p>B. Senator Rumpf stated that open enrollment for MESSA ends Thursday.</p>
<p>C. Senator Piercey reminded everyone to vote</p>
<p>D. Senator Fadayomi announced that Nov 14th, African Student Union will be sponsoring program called "Together We Stand" for Ebola in West Africa Awareness. It will be Friday, Nov 14th at the West Campus Community Center at 5pm.</p>
<p>E. Nov 25th: will be the next meeting of the Senate with APRC. Dinner will be served at the Rock at 5pm. The meeting will follow at 6pm.</p>
9. Meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.
Respectfully submitted, Amy Dinardo
Secretary