

**Minutes  
 Ferris State University  
 Academic Senate Meeting  
 MCO 210  
 October 7, 2014**

Members in Attendance: ALPACH, CHARLES BACON, BAJOR, BAKER, BALANDA, BARAN, BERGHOF, BRANDLY, BRECKEN, DAKKURI, DAUBERT, DINARDO, DRAKE, FADAYOMI, FAGERMAN, FOX, GRIFFIN, GROVES, HANNA, HARLAN, ING, ISLER, KLATT, MARION, MOORE, PIERCEY, POTTER, RICHMOND, RUMPF, SIAPUSH, THAPA, TODD, TOWER, WAGENHEIM, WANCOUR, YOWTZ

Members absent with cause: M. BACON, JENEROU, BARNETT, GRIFFIN

Members absent: None

Ex Officio and Guests: Adeyanju, Blake, Damari, Eisler, Franklund, Kalinowski, Kurtz, Nicol, Reifert, Schult, Scoby, Teahen, Weller, Saladin, Urbanick, Quigley, Ward-Roof

1.	President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.
2.	<b>Approval of Minutes.</b> Senator moved to approve the September 2, 2014 minutes A. Baran seconded. Motion passed.
3.	<b>Open Forum</b> A. John Urbanick, Chief Technology Officer, announced that between 9:30-10:45am on Thursday Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> there would be a testing of emergency messaging systems. Texts, e-mails, computer broadcasts, etc. will occur in order to test the system. He apologized for any disruption that may occur but iterated that the tests are needed to ensure the safety of everyone. Information Technology (IT) will be partnering the College of Engineering as well as Physical Plant to test the viability of new software to put computers into sleep mode. This will help reduce power usage from computers on campus. IT University Plan will be revised for the next three years and more information about this will be available in the future. For now, refer to the IT Communications website for the old plan. B. Senator Sandra Alpsach announced that the Political Engagement Project Town Hall Debate will occur on Monday, October 27 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm in BUS 111. ¾ of the candidates for Mecosta County Representatives of Michigan Legislature will be present. Prior to that, Tim Skubic will be presenting on Thursday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm in BUS 11. His presentation will “frame the election for us”. She encouraged student engagement in both events.
4.	<b>Officer Reports</b> A. <b>President Khagendra Thapa</b> thanked Senator Bacon for a job well done during his time as chair of the Election Committee. The new chair will be Senator Chuck Drake. He also announced that, in keeping with Senator Fagerman’s suggestion, we begin publishing the Senate Agenda along with the Senate Roster, making it available to all faculty and other stakeholders prior to meeting occurrences. His goal is to continue to make the Senate as transparent as possible. B. <b>Vice-President Bacon</b> announced that the Adjunct Election had taken place successfully. The ballot was sent to all adjunct faculty. Senators Bernadette Fox and Mary Bacon were re-elected. Committees have been assigned and have either met or plan to meet on October 14 <sup>th</sup> . Student representatives were appointed to the appropriate committees. He further explained the <i>US News and World Report</i> Rankings in the Mid-West Regional Tier. Robby Tehan and himself had gotten more details about how the rankings occur from the <i>US News</i> itself. (For more information, see the attached presentation.) The executive board will discuss next steps at the next E-board meeting and, as always, is taking suggestions from everyone. C. <b>Secretary Dinardo</b> announced that Senate Charter revisions are underway under the direction of Senators Rumpf, Isler, Alpsach and herself. Stay tuned for more details at the November meeting.

5.

**Committee Reports.**

- A. **University Curriculum Committee Chair Ouikemi Fadayomi** : So far, 14 proposals have been reviewed and forwarded to the Senate. The committee has also discussed better ways to make proposal submissions as friendly and uniform as possible. The Provost office's PCAF form was changed to include a new line: "Tenured Faculty Representative Signature". This was done to make sure that all faculty are included in each stage of the process. There have been problems in the past with Deans making changes to the proposal and submitting it to the UCC without communicating changes to the faculty initiator. Under the new process, the initiator sees all changes and must indicate whether they want to continue with the revised proposal or not. The UCC is also discussing when a course is defined as a new course. There has been to conclusion so far. There is also a new financial aid form and the UCC shared how to use it at a recent UCC workshop. New proposals must have a financial aid consultation form before going on to the next process. Senator Alpach said that there has been some confusion as to what is a General Education proposal versus a UCC proposal. She stressed the need for increased communication.
- B. **Student Government President Andrew Kalinowski** introduced Cory Saladin, the Student Government public relations representative. He reminded the Senate that advisors of organizations or Deans of Colleges could send representatives to student government meetings. He also mentioned that the FSU Student Government is a good resource for faculty, administration, committees, and other external sources to get student input.
- C. **Cory Saladin, Student Government Public Relations Representative** announced at FSU Student Government will be hosting the State of University on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in IRC 120. This event is a good way for University leaders/administration and students to communicate with each other. There will be a panel discussion where students can ask questions. The Student Government is also arranging a "Meet and Greet" between the student body, Deans of Colleges and Senators. This is planned for early next spring.
- D. **Clifton Franklund, General Education Coordinator** reported that he is continuing to implement the General Education Task Force's recommendations. His goal is to get all stakeholders, including the Senate, engaged in the planning and implementation. Dr. Franklund is currently working on clarifying some points in the General Education Task Force's (GETF) recommendations. He is considering reducing the 18 FLO's to 9-10, consolidating them into something more manageable and not eliminated. Senator Wegenheim asked for clarification on Dr. Franklund's suggestion that 18 FLO's is too many. Dr. Franklund clarified that he envisioned reducing 82 to 35 measurable learning outcomes (a 45% reduction) and reiterated that he would not eliminate FLO's but consolidate them. He continued to explain that, as the Coordinator, he is struggling with the definition of General Education. What do we mean by General Education? There are some discrepancies in the definition from GETF recommendations. Additionally, is the General Education Committee charged with tracking or overseeing the outcomes of all 18 FLO's? Senator Wegenheim clarified that General Education is "What all students need to walk out of here at graduation". The initial thought was that General Education Courses are only a subset of the 18 FLO's. It is the courses that fall under the Gen Ed Coordinator's responsibility. Senator Piercey stated that General Education should be more than just a set of courses. Dr. Franklund said that he plans to bring an additional 7 points to the Senate in the future.
- E. **Jerry Scoby, Vice-President for Administration and Finance** gave an overview on the ongoing process to update a new Master Plan for the Big Rapids campus. 2009 was the last update to the Master Plan. He is currently getting input from everyone on campus. Some people he is reaching out to would be Deans of Colleges, Academic Leadership, representatives from Engineering, Student Government, Physical Plant, Alumni, community members, Ferris Foundation Board of Directors, etc. The goal is to achieve final Board approval in May 2015. He mentioned 5 thematic areas in the plan. Master Plan gathering meetings have been scheduled. There will be an Open Forum on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-10AM in IRC 117. If you want to be engaged but are not sure which meeting to attend, contact Jerry Scoby. Multiple drafts of the Master Plan prepared by Newman-Smith will be posted on University website. There will be a University Wide Notice announcement when they are posted. The Master Plan will include a 5 year view and a 15-20 year view. Senator Charles Bacon asked about the role of the Virtual Learning Center that is up for approval with the Board. President Eisler stated that State of Michigan is not approving new construction but FSU may be able to use the footprint of Halisy or Vandercook to get funding for a renovation. The Virtual Learning Center would include a collection of new pieces from donors. Senator Isler asked Jerry Scoby about the intention of the Open Forum. Is it to look at the existing plan and determine if it is valid? Scoby replied that the intention is purely listening. Senator Alpach asked about the Dept of Humanities role in the new Master Plan. With 45 faculty members sharing 4 classrooms, it has been logistically challenging. Jerry Scoby answered that, as the Master Plan, is still in it's early stages, there is no solid answer at this time. Senator Charles Bacon asked about the academic structure of the Virtual Learning Center. Is it a college? President Eisler stated that it is undecided and fluid at this point. It is not atypical to have multiple colleges involved in a single entity.

6.	<p><b>Program Advisory Committee Task Force Recommendations- Daniel DeRegnier (Chair), Dave Frank, and Debbie Dawson.</b> Senator Isler motioned to take this topic off the table from the March 2014 Senate Meeting. Dinardo seconded. Motion passed. Bacon moved to approve the recommendations of the Program Advisory Committee Task Force. Senator Alspach seconded. Senator Fagerman asked if an editable copy of the example handbook in the report was available. President Thapa stated that he would try to get one. Motion to approve carried.</p>
7.	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>A. <b>President Eisler</b> thanked Senators for their time and willingness to be leaders. He introduced Jeanine Ward-Roof, the new Vice-President for Student Affairs. The University Center is on schedule. It should be possible to conduct Senate meetings there in the spring semester. Senator Charles Bacon asked about the ability to reserve a meeting room in advance, as the Executive Committee would like to ensure that a space is reserved. President Eisler stated that this would be possible. The new University Center will be a good place to gather and will take pressure off The Rock for dining facilities, parking from the public, etc. On another note, he recently spoke with Michigan Senator Darwin Booher about Capital Outlay. There was confusion as to if FSU should the send approval for the Swan Annex or for the next project. After further clarification from Senator Booher, it appears that the Virtual Learning Center Project will be up for approval in the lame duck session. President Eisler then announced that the MEPSERS Bond debt will be reported on the University's finances. It will be \$160 million in total by 2018. This debt will influence how a funder will view FSU. To diffuse this, President Eisler would like to set caps on MESPERS payments. President Eisler encouraged faculty to respond to surveys and communications related to David Pilgrim's d Diversity Audit. Senator Charles Bacon asked President Eisler if he could comment on the structure of EIO? President Eisler referred the question to the Provost. Senator Piercey asked if the University Center facilities would be available to external groups for conferences and workshops? If yes, would they be charged for said facilities? President Eisler said that the facilities would be available. Weather or not groups would be charged is a complicated answer.</p> <p>B. Interim Provost Paul Blake: Spoke to Senator Charles Bacon's question about the EIO Structure. He said that it is not a finalized structure. He is in conversation with President Eisler to determine what a final structure might look like. On another note, Interim Provost Blake announced that Peter Downs, a consultant, has been hired to help align university expectations with its divisions and college initiatives- particularly the initiatives presented by the College Deans at Welcome Week. President Thapa, VP Bacon and Dr. Blake meet regularly to talk through Senate-related issues and circumstances. He thanked Thapa and Bacon for their work and guidance. Senator Baker asked the Interim Provost about the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MACRAO). FSU policies are being solidified and formal documentation is being generated.</p>
8.	<p><b>Open Forum</b> A. None</p>
9.	<p>Dinardo moved to close the meeting at 11:14 a.m. Piercey seconded Motion passed.</p>

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Dinardo  
Secretary