

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

Members in Attendance: ALPACH, CHARLES BACON, MARY 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

Members absent with cause: JENEROU

Members absent: BARNETT, RUMPF, YOWITZ

Ex Officio and Guests: DAMARI, FRANKLUND, LOMBA, PAZOWSKI, SALADIN, VASICEK

1.	President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Dinardo moved to approve the April 20, 2014 minutes A. Baran seconded. Motion passed. Senator Dinardo moved to approve the April 20, 2014 minutes B. Baran seconded. Motion passed.
3.	Open Forum A. Clifton Franklund, General Education Coordinator, relayed that he would be recruiting a faculty champion as he will be bringing forward motions at the October and November Senate meetings. One motion would relate to changing Communication courses the other to consolidate some of the General Education Outcomes established previously.
4.	Officer Reports A. Dr. Thapa reported that he spoke with an authority at the FSU Department of safety about the lack of parking associated with holding Academic Senate meetings at MCO. He assured that, due to special circumstances, Senators will only be ticketed for parking in handicapped/disabled parking. In this case it is permissible to park in faculty, student, or commuter lots. B. Vice-President Bacon encouraged everyone to recruit members for Senate Committees. Senate assignments should go out soon. He also gave a brief summary of the components that comprise the rankings in the <i>U.S. News and World Report's</i> "Best Colleges" and "Best Universities" rankings (See attached Addendum A). This was an informational report to stimulate a discussion/information sharing about the Senate's role in an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate such rankings as proposed by President Thapa. After his presentation Vice-President Bacon asked for direction on the scope and mission of this committee. Sen. Baker agreed with the need for such a committee and suggested that FSU could leverage the information gained by such a committee to FSU's advantage such as attracting students. Sen. Balanda suggested that some measures in the <i>U.S. News and World Report</i> are "out of our hands" such as student retention and ranking of student choice. Would focusing on improving FSU's rankings be self-defeating or require positioning FSU in a completely different way? Instead, the investigation of such measures could be used to discover measures and strategies that FSU is not currently focusing on. Sen. Piercey confirmed that the Executive Board envisions such an Ad Hoc Committee entering the investigation with FSU's overall mission in mind. The idea is not to change the mission (its core values and unique strengths) but to ensure that FSU is getting credit for "what we already do" and increase the recognition of the University. Sen. Groves recommended that the Senate "ignore" the <i>U.S. News and World Reports</i> . In essence, they are reports to sell magazines, not meaningful data, especially because FSU deals with a "different set of students". Sen. Moore questioned if other entities across campus are monitoring such metrics-the Ad Hoc committee could ensure that important aspects were not being overlooked and that FSU was getting "credit" for it. Sen. Siapush stated that some of the metrics mentioned in VP Bacon's presentation, such as enrollment, were important but increasingly difficult to accomplish. Sen. Hanna expressed that metrics such as the opinion of other Deans and ranking of research is subjective. He does not want a focus on rankings to deter from FSU's overarching focus on teaching. Brenda Vasicek (Emeriti Board) volunteered that a Senate Meeting presentation from a representative (Shelly Armstrong) from Advancement and Marketing might help Senate members understand current A&M activities. Pres. Thapa confirmed that this committee was his initiative based partly on a comparison to GVSU and his impression on the challenges associated with FSU's "image". He reiterated some of his comments from his address at the Senate Retreat and later e-mailed to Senators (See Appendix B).

	<p>C. Secretary Dinardo reviewed use of the Turning Point clickers for attendance as well as use of the microphones on the desks for Senate meetings. Furthermore, she will be appointing members for a Rules Committee to review and revise the Senate Charter. A Rules Committee has not been convened in two years. The Charter has not been revised since 2011.</p>
5.	<p>Committee Reports.</p> <p>A. University Curriculum Committee Chair Ouikemi Fadayomi reported that the most recent workshop last August was well-attended. Currently, there are no motions. The UCC will resume meeting September 9th, 2014 and will put forth motions for the Senate floor for the October meeting. One motion that will be presented is to change the language in the PCAF to require a “faculty champion”.</p> <p>B. Student Government President Andrew Kalinowski said that the Student Government would like to build stronger relationships with FSU entities such as the Academic Senate. To that end, he introduced Evan Pazkowksi and Cory Saladin, two Public Relations liaisons who can help coordinate any collaborative efforts such as speakers for class. In response to the Senator’s discussion on student retention, Kalinowski suggested that, in his personal experience, students are more likely to remain at FSU if they have some type of personal investment in and RSO, particularly leadership. To that end, he encouraged Senators to facilitate getting their students involved in activities outside of academics at FSU. Director of Operations Haley Lomba reported that the Student Government will be involved in two upcoming events: OMSS Get Acquainted Day (Sept 2nd) and State of the University (Oct 8th). Kalinowski asked those present to contact him if students are needed on any committees.</p>
6.	<p>Program Advisory Committee Task Force Recommendations- Daniel DeRegnier (Chair), Dave Frank, and Debbie Dawson. Sen. Isler motioned to take this topic off the table from the March 2014 Senate Meeting. Bacon Seconded. Motion passed. Frank informed the group that the committee was commissioned in December 2013 and ended with the commission of the final report in April 2014. The goal of the task force was to make recommendations based on the examination of best practices from programs across the entire campus. As a result, a survey was generated and released to individuals of various programs. Task force members then summarized the results. Task force members then came to the realization that multiple factors go into a professional advisory committee based on the program. It was determined that it is not within the scope of the task force to determine exactly what should be done for each individual program. Some advisory boards are run a certain way for accreditation purposes. However, the task force did generate a short list of recommendations for program advisory boards. Sen. Fagerman asked more details about how the task force came up with it’s list of recommendations. Particularly the recommendation about how curriculum decisions are made. Another discussion ensued about the decision behind a three year term for advisory board members. It was then discovered that the executive board did not receive the full report of the task force with appropriate attachments. Sen. Alpach moved to table the voting on this topic to the October meeting until more information is available. Sen. Piercey seconded. Motion passed.</p>
7.	<p>Announcements</p> <p>A. No announcements from President Eisler or Interim Provost Blake</p>
8.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>A. Sec. Dinardo announced that Melinda Isler has been appointed the official Parliamentarian</p> <p>B. In response to the previous discussion about College and University rankings, Sens. Drake and Brecken mentioned that, although FSU has a presence in Grand Rapids, FSU cannot be compared to GVSU. GVSU is has a long-standing presence in this major metropolitan area. It would be like comparing apples in oranges in terms of sheer numbers. Sen. Baker agreed that FSU has a significant presence in Grand Rapids but more funds could be directed to GR to boost the presence. Sen. Tower informed the group that VP Jerry Scoby informed the SPARC committee of a master plan to improve FSU’s presence in both in GR and Big Rapids. It might be valuable to ask him to participate in a dialog at a future Academic Senate meeting. Vasicek offered that possibly Emeriti could help with the efforts to increase FSU’s visability in GR.</p> <p>C. Sen. Alpach expressed concerns about Outlook not performing correctly- sending and receiving e-mails late. Sen’s Wancour and Balanda agreed. President Thapa offered to contact an administrator at TAC in an effort to communicate/resolve the issue.</p>
9.	<p>Piercey moved to close the meeting at 11:14 a.m. Marion seconded Motion passed.</p>

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Dinardo
Secretary