

**Minutes
Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
University Center 202B
January 13, 2015**

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

Members absent with cause: GRIFFIN, GROVES, PIERCEY

Members absent: HANNA, RUMPF

Ex Officio and Guests: Blake, Damari, Eisler, Franklund, Kalinowski, Kurtz, Nicol, Pilgrim, Reifert, Teahen, Bersano, Quigley, Melichar, Bradley, Ward-Roof, Urbanick

1.	President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Moore moved to approve the December 2014 minutes. Piercey seconded. Motion passed.
3.	Open Forum A. Senator Alspach announced the Sports Speaker's Series Event at 6pm on Jan 26 th in IRC 120. The speaker, an FSU grad, will be discussing leadership in sports. B. Moment of Silence for Scott Atwell, Melinda Isler said a few kind words.
4.	Officer Reports A. President Thapa had nothing to report. B. Vice-President Bacon had nothing to report. C. Secretary Dinardo had nothing to report.
5.	Committee Reports A. UCC Chair Kemi Fadayomi: Last semester, UCC reviewed 21 proposals, 16 approved, 5 were held of incomplete information. The committee was concerned about how they can improve incomplete reports. They are now contacting the Deans of the Colleges to complete the forms. This semester, the UCC has 18 proposals to review. One is an extensive MBA revision. The UCC is putting more focus on defined learning outcomes and possibly working with FCTL on holding workshops to better write learning outcomes. There will be a Spring Workshop with an overview of the proposal process 10-12AM on Wed Jan 21 st in IRC 121. B. Student Government Representative Andrew Kalinowski and Wayne Bersano (VP) distributed a Student Government Report for the Fall of 2014. There are 29 external committees and 9 new committees added. The student government has tried to build relationships with the Academic Senate. Please let them know if the students could help by serving on committees. They thanked all who participated in Pancakes with the President. The leadership dinner is a new event. C. Clifton Franklund, General Education Coordinator is working on a comprehensive draft of proposals of the Gen Ed program implementation based on his discussions with people on campus. He will use that to start a discussion amongst all stakeholders. He is also working on a better way to use TracDat to track student learning outcomes.

6.	<p>A. Doctorate Completion Proposal: Dinardo proposed, Ing seconded. Ing commented that the University Graduate Committee reviewed this extensively and approved. The proposal was approved by Senate.</p> <p>B. Honors Curriculum Revision Task Force Report - Dr. Peter Bradley reviewed and clarified some changes to the Curriculum proposed. The task force reviewed numerous colleges and universities for comparison. The program will be expanding into the third and fourth years. Dr. Bradley advised a way to recognize those faculty who are champions for the program and who can assist in the governance of the honors program, the honors curriculum committee. The timeline for implementation will be Fall 2016. The report was motioned, seconded, and passed by the Senate.</p> <p>C. John Urbanick IT Focus Groups: The IT is currently in 3 out of 5 years of the current plan. John Urbanick plans to form IT Focus Groups to assist in planning for a new strategic plan. Open forums will be available for the campus at large. Survey instruments will be made available through the website in which everyone can participate. He demonstrated to Senators how to get to the website and pointed out timelines. He asked, “What is the best way to engage the Senate?”. IT will be asking for volunteers from the Senate to help with a Focus Groups specifically for the Senate. The focus group will then bring a report back to Senate at a future meeting to share information with all Senators. Melinda Isler has volunteered to be a part of the focus group. If you are interested in participating in the Focus Group, please e-mail John Urbanick or Melinda Isler.</p> <p>D. First Reading of Dr. Bajor’s concerns about Academic Program Review: Dr. Bajor expressed that he is concerned about the rapidity of the APR process, that there was not enough time for all Senators to think things through. He felt that the APR puts factors that has no solution. For example, his program was going to be closed because he was asked to explain the difference between two surveys that were taken 6 years apart (1/10th of a point difference). Dr. Bajor proposed that Senators have time to read the APR report before the APR meeting and that more discussion occurs during the meeting. He would like to see more people challenging the changes in order a productive discussion to occur amongst colleagues. He stated that last November, two programs were voted to continue against the wishes of the program who did not wish to support the programs. In 2013, a program that had no students and one negative survey response was voted to continue. He did not state the names of the programs but mentioned that one of them was one of Matt Wagenheim’s programs and Bajor felt that Wagenheim should have recused himself. Bajor also questioned making assessment part of the APR when a bulk of the programs (2/15) showed no evidence of student learning, curricular maps, etc. He suggest that they no longer be considered criteria. Dr. Bajor also said that the APR reports were too lengthy. He then asked the Senators to express their opinions so that the Senate could have a debate about his problems with the APR.</p> <p>Matt Wagenheim responded that the APR has never claimed to make judgments based on learning outcomes. They only recommend that a program get better with learning outcomes. There has been a concerted effort to reduce the page lengths of the reports. He stated that the APR works hard but they believe in the processes. Charles Bacon said that would like to see learning outcomes be an integral part of the APR. We need more specific information, specifically about #3 the criteria. “We have enshrined Bloom’s taxonomy” into the APRC process. Bajor responded that he questions the validity of Bloom’s taxonomy. Senator Fagerman said that she was a member of APR for two years and she would like to see more discussion on these big decisions. Senator Wancour said that, since the APR has put a lot of effort into the process, she would like to trust that the APR has done their homework. Senator Baker said that the 400 page report took a lot of time for his program to put together but the process was helpful overall. Don Brecken is in support of revisiting the APR process. There was an issue that the clickers were not used for the first few votes at the last APR meeting with the Senate in November. Instead of eliminating reviews for accredited programs, would it be possible to decrease frequency?</p>
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7.	<p>Announcements</p> <p>A. President Eisler thanked Melinda for her memorial. Thanked Peter for proposal on the Honors Program. Dr. Eisler informed the Senate of the two new trustees on the board, appointed by the Governor. Both appointees will be on campus Feb. 19, 2015 if Senators would like to meet with them. He advised the Senate of the Provost search and encouraged Senators to attend any open forum they can. Dr. Eisler thanked the Senate for using the new University Center for their meetings.</p> <p>B. Interim Provost Paul Blake encouraged all Senators to participate in the search for new Provost.</p>
8.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>A. Dr. Charles Bacon recognized Don Brecken for his election to the American Society for Quality, a national Board.</p> <p>B. Senator Balanda reported that meetings have happened with the Registrar and Financial Aid regarding the Academic Amnesty document passed at the December 2014 meeting. They will continue their discussions and get back to the Senate.</p> <p>C. Senator Berghoef reported that the Distinguished Teacher Task Force Report is now posted at the Distinguished Teacher webpage.</p>
9.	Meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Dinardo
Secretary