

**Minutes  
Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Meeting  
University Center 202C  
March 3, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Alspach, Bacon, C., Bacon, M., Balanda, Baran, Barnett, Berghoef, Brandly, Brecken, Dakkuri, Daubert, Dinardo, Drake, Fadayomi, Fagerman, Fox, Ing, Isler, Klatt, Moore, Piercey, Richmond, Rumpf, Thapa, Todd, Tower, Wancour

Members absent with cause: Bajor, Baker, Baran, Griffin, Wagenheim

Members absent: Groves, Hanna, Jenerou, Potter, Siahpush, Yowitz

Ex Officio and Guests: Durst, Franklund, Cliff, Kalinowski, Nicol, Reifert, Dawson, Krueger, Shoemaker, Urbanick, Goosen, Rosen, Wilber, Franklund, Carrie

1.	President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:03 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. Senator Sandra Alspach announced that students going to Grand Rapids from the Big Rapids Campus for the Chavez Social Justice March. The march supports the Latino Community. Also President Cameron Schoemaker of the Order Omega won an award for GPA at the National Council. Phi Sigma Sigma raised \$240,000. B. Fran Rosen announced that David Pilgrim from the Diversity and Inclusion office encourages us to participate in Diversity and Inclusion climate survey to contribute to the new plan. The survey will be available March 16-April 3 <sup>rd</sup> . All faculty, students, and staff will get an e-mail prompting them to take it. It will be quick to complete and everyone is eligible for prizes.
4.	<b>Officer Reports</b> A. <b>President Khagendra Thapa</b> said that President Eisler will not be at the meeting today and Interim Provost Blake will be late. He introduced Dr. Krueger from Emeriti. B. <b>Vice-President Bacon</b> discussed the report from the IT Committee where 288 constituents university-wide completed the IT fill survey responding to questions about the current plan. Bacon reviewed the results from the Senators. He encouraged more responses from Senators by the end of Spring Break. C. <b>Secretary Dinardo</b> announced that there will be an Open Forum for anyone concerned about changes or modifications to the Senate Charter. It will be held on March 24, 2015 at 11am in MCO 234. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
5.	<b>Committee Reports.</b> A. <b>University Curriculum Committee Chair Kemi Fadayomi</b> : The UCC has approved 11 new proposals. One was a modification to the industrial technical management. One concern was that there was no single tenure-track faculty in the program. B. <b>Student Government President Andrew Kalinowski</b> passed around an update for the remainder of the Spring Semester. Updates for Elections, Guest Speakers, External Entity Representation, etc. The goal is to increase voting/election participating by 100%. He asked Senators to encourage students to participate. Kalinowski reviewed some of the 34 committees that students can be involved in along with contact information. He also reviewed ongoing events for the Winter Semester such as the Leadership and Learning Conference to discuss diversity in the workplace (not exclusively for women). The Big Event is scheduled for April 18 <sup>th</sup> - please let your students know. VP Bacon asked if there is more info online. Kalinowski instructed us to consult the University calendar. C. <b>Election Committee, Senator Drake</b> : The committee is established and nominations are due this Friday. The election will be online March 25-26 <sup>th</sup> . He reviewed people up for re-election and seats that will be open.

6.	<p><b>Clifton Franklund. General Education Coordinator Report:</b> Why Change? As he has talked to various stakeholders in an effort to simplify plan he noticed that here was a little push-back. Why change? He would like to relate new changes to assessment data (at least what little FSU has) in order to drive change. If general education were to actually be revised appropriately, there should be changes. He realizes change is difficult, expensive, and takes work. He reviewed the 5 following main drivers for change: Dissatisfaction with A&amp;S-centric model, incomplete alignment with employers needs and expectations, demographic challenges to current model, relative performance issues, and the need for systematic assessment. He further discussed demographic challenges due to data that is difficult to interpret. It appears that transfers are growing and FIDIACS are flat. Growth is occurring in online and international students. He reviewed the courses with the most transfer SCH (Student Credit Hour). Ten are core Gen. Ed courses. It appears that we deliver less on campus as we take more transferred SCH. We are delivering 40% in these 10 courses. (Are we really assessing Gen Ed?). In BIO 103, for example, we take 80% in transfer. This decreases our revenue stream. What are the reasons why students transfer credits? First cause is cost (community colleges are cheaper). Convenience at home or online vs Ferris on campus. Value= do our classes better prepare students for work? VP Bacon mentioned that the Senate is passing laws to encourage community colleges to offer terminal degrees in nursing and engineering. He also mentioned rumblings about the the possibility of offering community college of for free. We then looked at grades from ENGL 150 and MATH 115 at Ferris vs Transfers. Transfers have a lower DFW, inferring that community colleges could make the argument that their courses are better. Franklund analyzed ENG 150 and MATH 115 grades in order to predict future performance in ENGL classes. In the A range, there is no difference. C students from FSU score a ½ letter grade lower than C student who transferred. Sen. Balanda asked, “Who are the students that transfer vs come to Ferris? Victor asked, “How do we play the hand that we are dealt with the student population that is driven to attend FSU? ? Franklund’s take-home points were that general education needs revision. Action steps should be taken to do the following: Increase the involvement of all divisions, colleges, programs, etc, address the needs of employees, increase accessibility and convenience of offences, attenuate the erosion of our lower division enrollment, improve the value proposition of general education. Ultimately, there is a need for more/better data. Senator Alspach encouraged him to look at number of tenure-track vs adjunct faculty teaching courses.</p>
7.	<p><b>New Business- New Hospitality Management BS Degree, Kemi Fadayomi:</b> Kemi motioned, Mike Berghoef seconded. VP Bacon asked if there was any correlation or overlap between the fermentation program and this program? (No). It was pointed out there is competition from other schools who are creating similar programs. The motion passed.</p>
7.	<p><b>Announcements/Open Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Senator Drake asked if someone vote for another Senator if they step out. The answer was no.</li> <li>B. Senator Fagerman asked if there is a plan to involve more tenure track faculty representatives when programmatic changes are made. What is done if there is no tenure track representative involved and adjunct faculty have good proposals? Bacon replied that it is against the FFA contract. Balanda stated that lack of tenure track faculty involvement it is becoming more of a problem when senior faculty members retire. Should there be at least one tenured faculty member in the program?</li> <li>C. Mike Berhoef thanked to Cliff Franklund for the helpful presentation. It would be interesting to get some qualitative data on why students are taking courses elsewhere.</li> <li>D. Melinda Isler announced an event on March 24<sup>th</sup> for Women’s History Month. Trisha Franzen, professor at Albion College and author of the new biography of Anna Howard Shaw, will visit Big Rapids on March 24<sup>th</sup>. She will do a session about doing research at 11 a.m. and a public presentation at 7 p.m. The 11 a.m. event is in the FLITE Reading Room (FLITE 240).</li> <li>E. Senator Adnan Dakkuri expressed concern about dwindling attendance at Senate meetings.</li> </ul>
9.	<p>Dinardo moved to close the meeting at 11:14 a.m. Piercey seconded Motion passed.</p>

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Dinardo  
Secretary