

**Minutes  
Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Meeting**

**September 1, 2015  
10:00 a.m.  
UCB 202**

Members in Attendance: Alspach, Bacon, C., Bacon, M. Bajor, Balanda, Baran, Berghoef, Brecken, Briggs, Bright, Daubert, Drake, Epps, Fadayomi, Fagerman, Fould, Fox, Gray, Hancock, Isler, Klatt, Lewis, Maike, Mattis, Piercey, Richmond, Thapa, Todd, Wagenheim, Wancour, Zimmer, Zyla

Members absent with cause: Cronk, Dinarda, Jenerou

Members absent: Hanna, Rumpf

Ex Officio and Guests: Adeyanju, Damari, Durst, Eisler, Franklund, Garrison, Karfa, Nicol, Potter, Reifert, Schult, Teahen, Weller, Urbanick

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| 1.    | President Thapa called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.  |
| 2.    | <b>Approval of Minutes.</b><br>Senator Baran moved to approve the minutes. Senator Zyla seconded. The motion passed.   |
| 3.    | <b>Open Forum.</b><br>Emeriti President Doug Haneline invited interested faculty to attend the Emeriti Association fall luncheon. Senator Alspach noted that on September 3 was a luncheon for faculty interested in learning more about the Political Engagement Project (PEP) in the Rock dining area.   |
| 4.    | <b>Officer Reports.</b><br>President Thapa thanked the senators for their participation in the retreat and their services in the new year.<br><br>Vice-President Bacon said that the committee assignment information will be coming out by the end of the week and encouraged faculty to apply for committee assignments. He noted that the Study Abroad/International Education group had been assembled and would be meeting soon. The Academic Program Review Committee is still looking for members. Bacon also noted that there were issues relating to the UCC and the submissions of Form E's in relation to the MyDegree Project. UCC chair Fadayomi said this continues to be an issue. Associate Vice-Provost Weller noted that this project is actually cleaning up the checksheets for the way colleges are graduating students and are not a change for those programs. It is a misalignment of the MyDegree system and 3/4s of the degree programs.<br><br>Secretary Isler had no report. [Later amended to announce Senator Russell Lewis has been appointed as the 2015-16 Senate Parliamentarian]. |
| 5.    | <b>Committee Reports</b><br>UCC Chair Fadayomi said that the workshop during faculty week had good attendance and a lot of discussion and questions. She looks forward to doing more workshops and working with programs to see that they all have Form E's attached to their proposals.<br><br>General Education Coordinator Cliff Franklund had no report, as the committee had not yet met.<br><br>Student Government President was unable to be present.   |
| 5(b). | <b>Approval of Health Promotions Task Force</b><br>Vice-President Bacon moved remove from the table the motion from the April 2015 meeting creating a group to move forward on restructuring the Health Promotions Committee. Senator Berghoef seconded. Secretary Isler explained that the group had not actually passed the vote at the April 2015 meeting. Motion passed. Berghoef gave a summary of the original report which was that the Health Promotions Committee decided that the group  |

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|    | <p>needed to be broadened in its structure. It was decided that a further ad-hoc group would determine that structure. Senator Richmond added that the group had outgrown its original structure and mission which was tied to a grant. Senator Gray asked what the original mission of the committee was. Senator Berghoef said the group would pick a particular cause/issue to champion in a given year. Some senators said they thought the issue had been voted on in April. Secretary Isler and Administrative Assistant Paula Hadley explained that the minutes from April shows the motion being tabled and no vote being recorded so we need to actually take a vote. Parliamentarian Lewis called a point of order on wording of motion, which he pointed out was whatever the wording of the original April motion. Senator Zyla pointed out that motion was part of the packet information</p>  |
| 6A | <p><b>Closure of Community Studies Minor</b><br/> Senator Fadayomi moved to close the community studies minor. Senator Mary Bacon seconded. Motion passed.</p>  |
| 6B | <p><b>Closure of Human Development Minor</b><br/> Senator Fadayomi moved to close the community studies minor. Senator Mary Bacon seconded. Senator Fagerman noted her appreciated for the program which made this decision as a result of information which came out during academic program review. Motion passed.</p>  |
| 6C | <p><b>Academic Interdisciplinary Collaboration Task Force</b><br/> Senator Piercey moved to create an academic interdisciplinary task force. Senator Gray seconded. Senator Fagerman noted that the task force should look at the opportunities and good things, as well as the obstacles. Motion passed.</p>   |
| 6D | <p><b>Changing Name of Distinguished Teacher Award to Distinguished Faculty Award.</b><br/> Vice-President Bacon made the motion. Senator Piercey seconded. Vice-President Bacon said that this was a reflection of what the Provost and task force had indicated. Senator Gray said that one of the distinctions of Ferris was the focus on great teaching. Senator Fagerman noted that in her experience what prevented the award from having a larger amount of applicants was not the name of the award, but rather the process which disenfranchised online instructors and those with heavy advising loads. Senator Richmond asked if this meant that faculty such as the non-teaching counselors and librarians did not have a way in which to get rewarded for their performance. Senator Epps asked about other opportunities and awards for faculty which were not teaching. Senator Fagerman added again the process was cumbersome. Emeriti President Doug Haneline noted the long history of the award and how it emphasized the unique teaching focus of faculty at Ferris. Secretary Isler gave comments from Senator DiNardo who was not present that this was not a change in practice but merely a way to refocus committee members who focus almost exclusively on the teaching evaluations. Scholarship and service/advising are already part of the groups criteria. Vice-President Bacon withdrew the motion.</p> |
| 7. | <p><b>Announcements.</b><br/> President Eisler described some ongoing issues including the Title IX trainings and the definition of a responsible employee. He encouraged all faculty to sign up for training and noted this was part of a state mandate. He also said that they had placed a \$10 million dollar bid for a property adjacent to the KCAD campus. Eisler said recommendations would be received from a task force on student housing and encouraged everyone to participate in Founders Day. Senator Epps added the experience of her cousin and the inadequacy of the housing she saw. President Eisler also said he was looking forward to welcoming the senators to a reception at his house in early fall.</p>  |
| 8. | <p><b>Open Forum.</b><br/> Senator Berghoef suggested that the Senate office send out the task force report about the distinguished teacher committee which came out a few years ago. He also added his appreciated for Amy Buse and the work that she has done on MyDegree.</p>  |
| 9. | <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.</p>  |
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