

**Minutes
Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting**

October 6, 2015

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

Members absent with cause: Dinardo, Drake, Fagerman, Hancock, Jenerou

Members absent: Rumpf, Todd

Ex Officio and Guests: Adeyanju, Blake, Eisler, Franklund, Garrison, Bersano, Karfa, Nicol, Potter, Reifert, Schult, Teahen, Hawkins, Bullard, Zimmerman, Halm, Mishler, McKean, Brandy, Calhoun, Haneline, Osobu

1.	President Thapa called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Baran moved to approve the minutes. Senator Alspach seconded. The motion passed.
3.	Open Forum. Senator Alspach reported on the academic status of athletes and the reports which will show progress. Senator Berghoef gave a clarification for the confusion over the Health Promotions motion from September. It turned out that at the April 28 th meeting the ad-hoc task force had been approved but was recorded in the minutes as a suggestion. Emeriti President Doug Haneline reported on the upcoming fall luncheon October 21 st . Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP.
4.	Officer Reports/Provost Report. President Thapa thanked the senators for their participation and encouraged them to attend the upcoming reception at President Eisler's house. He also emphasized the importance of Academic Program Review and the shortage of committee members this year. He also mentioned problems with the quality of reports and lateness. Vice-President Bacon said that the APR committee is still looking for members. The Health Promotions Task Force was scheduled to meet and the International Education Task Force continued to work on their charge. Secretary Isler reported that in the redesign of the website will not lead to the removal of Senate minutes. University website content manager Ted Halm will be giving a presentation on the new website. Provost Blake gave his report early to accommodate a meeting with a student. He noted that the public safety handout which many faculty had already received had been a joint project with DPS chief Bruce Borkovich. They should be placed wherever the faculty feel is most useful and do not need to be placed in the classroom. He also noted the increase in academic support services (writing center) and their willingness to provide additional hours in the dorms where students are living. He also noted on the initiative to set up a call list so faculty know who to contact about a student and for the athletics staff, a listing of the advisors for a particular athlete. This should decrease confusion and hopefully help with academic performance. Finally, he thanked the Senate for all their work in September.
5.	Committee Reports UCC Chair Fadayomi said that the committee had endorsed the goals for the 2015-16 committee that had been discussed at the Senate retreat. She also told the Senators to please remind their colleagues that if they had submitted a proposal using the old forms, they would need to transfer them. MyDegree coordinator Amy Buse had met with the committee and they continue to work toward a solution. General Education Coordinator Cliff Franklund said that there is a plan for 8 core competencies. Some of those

	<p>such as collaboration and problem solving could be done through program classes. In order to facilitate the course approval process they are discussing a plan to map current courses over to the new competencies and not have to recertify immediately. The competencies proposal will be available to the Senators in writing for the next meeting.</p> <p>Student Government President Wayne Bersano talked about initiatives including the change in financing (which lead to the collaborative proposal bringing Bill Nye to speak on campus), the State of the University event and changes to the readership program.</p>
6A	<p>Presentation on University Website</p> <p>Website Content Manager Ted Halm gave a presentation on the newly revised website. He demonstrated several sample pages. Surveys have been done and focus meetings with a number of groups. The templates shown are designed to be friendlier to prospective students and parents. They will begin to roll out part of these pages this month but the entire process will take several months as there are a few hundred content editors who will all need to migrate their pages. The new website will also be more mobile friendly and meet all the federal mandates on accessibility. It has new landing pages for areas such as diversity and academic support and new templates for college and departmental pages. It also coordinates with social media feeds (includes live twitter and Facebook feed at the bottom). Senator Piercey asked whether or not it would allow for faculty websites. Manager Halm said that is not a current option but they will link to cloud services. Senator Hanna asked about review and comments for departmental pages. Halm said yes. Senator Berghoef asked if there was a text-only site. Halm said yes.</p>
7A	<p>New Minor in Economics</p> <p>Senator Fadayomi moved to close the community studies minor. Senator Berghoef seconded. Senator Hanna asked if the additional courses could be covered by existing faculty. College of Business faculty member Mark Brandly said that the two additional courses could be covered. Motion passed.</p>
7B	<p>New Program- Masters of Healthcare Administration</p> <p>Senator Fadayomi moved to support the Masters of Healthcare Administration. Senator Berghoef seconded. This proposal was originally submitted to the UCC in the spring, but was not finished because of concerns about the business classes included. Vice-President Bacon asked for clarification about why these classes could not be taught by business faculty. Coordinator Gail Bullard explained that within their accreditation standards, these had to be taught directly by faculty with health care experience and she had worked through the issue with Business faculty Gayle Lopez. Dean Nicol added support for this point of view which made it not possible to be taught by current Business faculty (and allow them to meet the business accreditation requirements. Secretary Isler made a comment that she did not recall the vote taken to approve the program by the University Graduate and Professional Council. Senator Piercey (and UCC member) provided a copy of the form which was signed on April 22nd. Senator Bacon asked the question of whether or not they had sufficient credentialed faculty. Department head Greg Zimmerman noted they had 3 full-time faculty, 1 part time and 2 field faculty. Senator Hanna asked about the 46 hours of credit as the minimum instead of 40 and Zimmerman answered that they additional 6 credits were Ferris's choice. Hanna also noted that unlike other colleges, they had answered the faculty resource question before sending a program to the Senate. Vice-President Bacon asked who the competition would be for this program. The answer was Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan and University of Michigan. The motion passed 17-9 (with two abstentions).</p>
8.	<p>Announcements.</p> <p>President Eisler gave a summary of his views on strategic planning. He noted that the difficulty is in being able to come up with meaningful assessments that can be accomplished. It is much easier to add more things to the plan and extremely difficult to remove anything.</p> <p>He noted that the MSPERS refund has had \$837,000 placed in a student scholarship fund. He is aware that other universities are reserving it for future MSPERS costs (which appear on the budget as a liability beginning next year) but he feels the strongest investment is in our students. Vice-President Bacon noted that while that is important, it is also important that in the last decades the staff and departments have taken millions in cuts which have not been restored. Senator Wagenheim noted that in APR every year, he sees a need for equipment requests to maintain program, and an endowment which generated \$50,000 per year would help immensely in funding such requests and also helping students. Senator Balanda agreed but also saw the need for improved</p>

	endowments to compete with other universities for students.
9.	Open Forum. Emeriti President Haneline made an observation on the history of Academic Program Review. He notes that the process is highly regarded by the HLC and some review process is part of our accreditation requirements. The question is how to get the information needed in a way that is more user-friendly to faculty.
9.	The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.