

**Minutes
Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting,
February 8, 2017- 10:00 a.m.**

Members in Attendance: Alspach, Bacon, C., Bacon, M., Bajor, Balanda, Baran, Berghoef, Brecken, Briggs, Bright, Cronk, Dinardo, Drake, Epps, Fadayomi, Fould, Fox, Gray, Hanna, Ing, Isler, Jenerou, Maike, Mattis, Piercey, Pisani, Shimko, Stone, Thapa, Todd, VanLent, Zyla

Members absent with cause: Wancour, Rumpf

Members absent: Conley, Hancock, Lewis, Marion

Ex Officio and Guests: Adeyanju, Blake, Eisler, Franklund, C., Garrison, Jackson, Schult, Teahen, Johnson, L., Hawkins, Martin, Ward-Roof, Woolen, Dawson, Haneline

1.	President Thapa called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Zyla moved to approve the minutes. Senator Mary Bacon seconded. The motion passed 89% to 11%.
3.	Open Forum. There were no comments made in the Open Forum
4.	Officer Reports/ Provost Report President Thapa welcomed Senator Jana Pisani, the new senator from Arts and Sciences (replacing Senator Zimmer who resigned). He also welcomed the athletics teams who would be recognized later in the program. Vice-President Bacon had no report. Secretary Isler had no report. Provost Blake gave his report early because of a schedule conflict. He reported on two meetings held with international faculty and international student populations. They had substantial attendance and many questions were asked. No students and faculty at Ferris are currently on the list of banned countries. He noted that many of the students made a point of saying how welcome and supportive their faculty members have been and encouraged faculty to continue to support this.
5.	Committee Reports UCC Chair Kemi Fadayomi reported on the workshop and that 3 programs will be up for closure later in the meeting. The updated manual has been made available and new forms are being used. She also reported on the issue of non-active programs listed in MyDegree, which requires program initiators to send Form B's. Senator Berghoef suggested that the UCC consult with the college point-person. Senator Balanda asked about the process for getting answers to questions like this. Chair Fadayomi suggested calling or emailing her directly. Senator Alspach asked if the trend to convert pre-programs to associates will continue. Chair Fadayomi said she expected it to do so. General Education coordinator Cliff Franklund was not present to give a report. He reported that after a recent conversation with the Senate Executive Committee, he had a conversation with the General Education Committee and are asking for an appointment of a senator to the committee, to represent the voice of the Academic Senate. He also reported that all of the collaborative and problem solving courses are mapped and the new universal checksheets are available so programs should check. As part of the reforms of the system the new subcommittee structure is at 75% Arts and Sciences faculty instead of the previous 95% Arts and Sciences faculty. Assessment training will be continuing for the next few months- and the process has been simplified to 6 steps. The training will be approximately 1 hour and available to any college or area which needs it. Revised forms for the approval process are up and will be available electronically for review. The process is underway to scan and make available older forms as well. Vice-President Bacon asked if it was possible to link objectives in Blackboard instead of TracDat? Coordinator Franklund said it is possible but not required and can be done through a report.

	<p>Student Government President Josh Olzswewski reported on recent activities. They were involved in a panel discussion with the Office of Multicultural Student Services, are sponsoring a student issues panel on February 7th and in April will be celebrating with the 10th anniversary of the Big Event.</p>
6a	<p>Closure of Pre-Public Administration Program Chair Fadayomi moved to close the program. Senator Zyla seconded. Senator Hanna asked if there were any plans to convert these particular programs into associates degree. Chair Fadayomi said no. The motion passed 97% to 3%..</p>
6a	<p>Closure of Pre-Law Program Chair Fadayomi moved to close the program. Senator Mary Bacon seconded. Motion passed 94% to 3% with 3% abstaining.</p>
6a	<p>Closure of Health, Society and Illness minor Chair Fadayomi moved to close the minor. Senator Mary Bacon seconded. Motion passed 97% to 3%.</p>
6b.	<p>Appointment of Senator to General Education Committee. Senator Alspach made a motion to accept the invitation of the General Education Committee to appointed a non-college representative to the General Education Committee designated to report on General Education to the Senate. Senator Piercey seconded. Senator Alspach said this was raised out of a concern that senators are not always on the committee as they are this year. Senator Brekken asked if there was a purpose in putting a member on at this time of year. Franklund said the committee meets once a month and maybe more as needed. Senator Gray, who sits on the group noted that its about 2 meetings and 5 hours per month. Senator Hanna asked how the member would be determined? Senator Foulk asked if the member must be a current Senator? Senator Alspach said it would be the normal committee application process, but that it must be a senator. A member can be appointed for the remainder of this year so senators with interest should send an email to Administrative Assistant Hadley-Kennedy. Motion passed 97% to 3%.</p>
7.	<p>Announcements/Presidents Report. President Eisler gave an extended report. He first discussed the issue of student hunger and the attention that the Diversity/Inclusion Office has brought to the issue. He encouraged all to look at the brochure online that lists all free meals available and where. Senator Maiké suggested a pdf version of the page to make it more printable. Senator Hanna suggested also looking at church meals. President Eisler said some of those are included if known. Senator Stone said that toiletries are also a great need. Senator Balanda said that after the 5 p.m. mass at St. Pauls, students have a meal and even if not Catholic, the group would never turn a hungry student away. Senator Brekken asked about extent of problem, and President Eisler responded it is a hard thing to calculate. Senator Epps noted food insecurity is a transient type of problem. Senator Bajor noted there are also homelessness issues and reports of student sleeping in the IRC></p> <p>President Eisler also gave some thoughts on the budget. He notes that they are cutting 5 million dollars out of an original budget of \$216 million so it is not as drastic a cut as it may be portrayed. They will see how the spring and summer revenue happen and adjust as needed. The cuts are across all areas and he has stressed that even though 75% of the costs are labor, they are not going to fire anyone. Vice President Bacon asked why there is not a greater advertisement of summer, instead of cutting off numbers and cancelling classes? President Eisler said yes, free room is available and he will look into that. Senator Baran asked if President Eisler had a crystal ball, what would be his areas of concern? President Eisler said that the first would be a drop in our international student enrollment because of the political climate and the second would be the efforts by the Michigan house speaker to eliminate or greatly reduce the state income tax and that would greatly decrease the state budget.</p>
8.	<p>Open Forum Senator Alspach encouraged Senators to spread the news about the Red-Out event which was coming up. Senator Gray took a moment to express concern about the Inclement Weather Policy and how ice and snow have lead to both treacherous driving conditions, but also walking conditions for the students on campus. He felt the policy and levels at which a cancellation occurs needs to be reviewed. Senator Fadayomi noted on March 31st they would have a speaker on inclusive classrooms. Senator Piercey encouraged faculty to attend Festival fo the Arts events. Senator Stone encouraged attendance at the Equal means Equal event. Senator Drake reported</p>

	that over 150 students participated in MathCounts. Senator Berghoef raised concerns relating to the closure of the Health, Society and Illness minor, and the religious studies minor also closed. He notes that shows a trend not of strategic planning, but rather a closure because the original champion had left he university. Senator Todd noted the upcoming APR down halls. Senator Epps and Gray talked about time to degree and debt issues, and the cost-benefit analysis to students.
9.	Recognition of the Volleyball and Football teams. President Thapa recognized the achievements of both the volleyball team and the football team for their historic seasons. They were presented with a certificate and a photograph was taken.
10.	The meeting was adjourned at 11:30a.m.