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Subject: Ferris Board Approves Academic Programming
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Included below is a press release regarding a regular meeting of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris Board of Trustees approves academic programming

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Board of Trustees approved a special tuition agreement for active duty military personnel during the board’s regular meeting today (March 21).

The agreement offers in-state tuition to active duty military personnel, their spouses and dependents if the member of the Armed Forces is a Michigan resident – has not established residency elsewhere – or is stationed in Michigan.

Normally, a student cannot attain “resident status” until they have lived in Michigan for one full year prior to their application for a residential status change, said Daniel Burcham, vice president for Student Affairs. Out-of-state tuition rates at Ferris are currently double in-state rates.

“Veterans have long been a big part of Ferris State University. The type of education Ferris provides, which helps students prepare for successful careers upon graduation, is well-suited to help veterans make the transition back to civilian life,” said Ferris President David Eisler. “I believe this program will make a difference for the men and women who have served and risked their lives for our country.”

Ferris also offers a Military Veterans Scholarship Program, which provides a \$1,000 annual scholarship and waives out-of-state tuition fees for qualified veterans enrolling at Ferris.

In other business, the board also approved a change request for Vietnam programming with An Giang University in Long Xuyen, Vietnam, to offer the Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

The change request will be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, said Thomas Oldfield, interim vice president for Academic Affairs.

“The request is the result of An Giang identifying an immediate need to provide educational opportunities and support for elementary and secondary teacher development to improve the quality of life for Vietnamese children,” Oldfield added. Ferris’ College of Education and Human Services has the expertise to provide its educational programming at the master’s level in Vietnam.

In other business with institutions of higher education outside of the United States, the board approved renewal of articulation agreements the University has with five institutions, including Fachhochschule Aachen in Aachen, Germany; University of Anger in Anger, France; and University of Bath in Bath, United Kingdom. To date, 20 students have come to Ferris and 12 Ferris students have taken advantage of these study abroad opportunities.

Closer to home, the board approved a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. The baccalaureate program in Dental Hygiene is designed for dental hygienists with an associate degree and a valid Dental Hygienist License, and is an alternative to providing advanced training for associate degree graduates.

The board also approved:

- A lease agreement with Western Michigan University for Ferris' College of Pharmacy to meet the instructional needs of third-year Doctor of Pharmacy students. This agreement will allow the College of Pharmacy to continue to use Western's Spindler Hall to deliver its third-year curriculum in Kalamazoo.
- A TracDat Software purchase and professional services agreement with Nuventive. The agreement will provide a software solution that facilitates consistent recording and reporting of assessment information to satisfy the expectations of varying accreditors. Year one will include a cost of \$52,260 for a site license and server; and annual maintenance and support, upgrades and user group participation, and professional services for training for the first year. Ongoing expenses for a total three-year cost will not exceed \$82,000.
- The authorization of a strict discipline academy. Lighthouse Academy in Grand Rapids is an alternative education program operated by Wedgwood Christian Services for the Kent County Intermediate School District. Strict discipline academies are public school academies chartered for the purpose of reforming "at-risk" students without endangering others.
- Re-authorization of Allen Academy for a term ending June 30, 2015; Francis Reh Public School Academy for a term ending June 30, 2011; Pierre Toussaint Academy for a term ending June 30, 2013; and New Bedford Academy for a term ending June 30, 2013.

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