

**Minutes
Ferris State University
December 5, 2017- 10:00 a.m.**

Members in Attendance: Alspach, Aslakson, Axford, Bacon, Bajor, Balanda, Baran, Berghoef, Bright, Daubert, Desmond, Drake, Epps, Fadayomi, Fox, Gray, Inabinett, Ing, Isler, Johnson, Maike, Moore, Rumpf, Shimko, Stone, Thomson, Todd, Wancour, Weaver, Wolfer, Wyss, Zube, Zyla

Members absent with cause: Calkins, Conley, DiNardo

Members absent: Marion

Ex-Officio and Guests: Maixner, Hawkins, Eisler, Nicol, Bentley, Schult, L. Johnson, Adeyanju, M. Johnson, Blake, Leonard, Garrison, Reifert, Ewigleben, Martin, Venkatesh, Williams, Buse, Watson, Lopez, Nystrom, Barber

1.	President Bacon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Zylas moved to approve the minutes. Senator Zyla seconded. Secretary Isler noted some corrections had been made since packet sent. The motion passed 93% to 0 %with 7% abstaining.
3.	Open Forum Senator Johnson gave an update on the families of staff members in Puerto Rico that they have been sending donations too. They are progressing and are very grateful for the assistance. Senator Alspach noted the womens volleyball team and mens football team are conference champions and arrangements will be made at a later date to have a photo taken with the team and a certificate given by the Academic Senate.
4.	Officer Reports/ President Report President Bacon had no report. Vice-President Alspach noted there is a recommendation for closure of the Health Promotions Committee coming up an action item. Secretary Isler had no report but will be speaking for the Rules Committee in committee reports.
5.	Committee Reports UCC Chair Rusty Leonard reported that 11 proposals have passed the UCC and two of them are coming up for a vote at this meeting. They continue to work on several ongoing proposals. Student Government LaShay Watson gave greetings to the Senate and reported on upcoming activities such as the Spring RSO fair and the Big Event. Diversity Committee member Anil Venkatesh gave an update to the Senate on action items that they discussed with the Senate last spring. They have expanded their coordination of coordination beyond College of Engineering Technology and College of Arts and Sciences. They are improving visibility of online diversity related posts They continue to work on the diversity topic for FSUS and the Endless Opportunities mentoring program. They are also working on a social media presence with the assistance of Paul Zube and a workshop on sundown counts. The Academic Standards and Policy report was moved to later in the meeting. Rules Committee Chair Isler encouraged all senators to give suggestions for charter changes and noted there would be an open forum prior to the January senate meeting for suggestions. Currently there are four proposals including: 1. Addition of an at-large member 2. Revision of language to specify non tenure-track faculty terms go through September of the following year, 3. Article IV cleanup of language to list 3 non-tenure track members, 4. Clarify that ex-officio Senate committee members are non-voting.

	<p>Senator Aslakson reported on the Distinguished Teacher Committee. The applications were due in November and the committee with working on scheduling the teacher observations. The winner will have their name on the new plaque which is going up in the University Center.</p>
7a.	<p>Changes in Social Work Program. Senator Zyla moved to support the changes in the Social Work Program. Senator Ing seconded. Senator Stone explained that as part of their accreditation process they had been given feedback that lead to changes in the second year of the program. The Leadership and Supervisory class was being split and a new clinical course had been added. The fieldwork that student had been doing in the first year was overwhelming and they were trying to add more balance. The capstone course was being changed to credit / no-credit to avoid picking a topic for a grade. Senator Moore and Senator Ing noted their programs also used this model for their capstones. Motion passed 93%- 4% with 4% abstaining.</p>
7b.	<p>Creation of the Legal Studies Minor. Senator Zyla moved to support the creation of the Legal Studies Minor. Seconded by Senator Ing. Program coordinator Gayle Lopez noted that this replaces the current AAS Legal Studies program which was a paralegal track but did not reflect the current student needs. It provided a cost savings with removal of the paralegal parts. Senator Balanda asked about the job market for paralegals? Coordinator Lopez said 95% get jobs but only 5 students in the last 17 years have gone in that direction. Senator Baran asked about impact on faculty to closing track? Lopez said it impacts 2 faculty who only taught one course per year in program and have other courses they can teach. Senator Gray said he supported the concept but asked about implications for Tuition Incentive Program students and the loss of an associate's degree. Lopez noted that there were other management minors which could help them to meet that criteria. Motion passed 93% to 3% with 4% abstaining.</p>
7c.	<p>Closure of Health Promotions Committee Senator Bright moved to close the Health Promotions Committee. Seconded by Senator Axford. He noted that 25 years ago as part of a grant, the university was required to create the faculty committee but it needs to be a more expanded group. In 2017 a task force recommended the closure of the group. A new committee which would have faculty representation is to be formed by Director of the Birkam Health Center, Lindsay Barber. Motion passed 93% to 3% with 3% abstaining.</p>
5d.	<p>Medical Withdrawal Policy- Academic Standards and Policy Senator Balanda moved to support approval of the Medical Withdrawal Policy. Senator Fadayomi seconded. Committee chair Nystrom said they had worked through this policy and had added a flow chart which makes it more clear process. Those who do withdraw have to reapply for admission so it is a serious procedure. Birkam Director Lindsay Barber noted there are approximately 80 requests per year. She also noted once this withdrawal is accepted a student must leave campus within 7 days. Senator Moore said there are many pieces in this document which would be helpful to a faculty advisor. Senator Ing noted there is a short term leave which is less official but a medical withdrawal is an officia separation. Motion passed 100% to 0%.</p>
8	<p>Conversations with the Senate- Jake Martin, IT. Jake Martin the Chief Technology Officer gave a brief overview of activities within ITS. He notes that they have 42 active projects. They will be unveiling a wireless federation service called Eduram which should be operational by the end of December. This will work both on campus and off-campus for faculty to be able to login to the Ferris network. Moore asked what the effect this switch will have on security and cost. Martin noted the new system will make things easier and will also meet current federal requirements. A new plan for IT which should be completed by FY2019 is also in the works. He also noted that this year there was a change in the funding model for computer replacement. The contract had returned to Dell for cost reasons. Also in the past the computers were funded 50% by president's office and 50% by the provost. It is now funded 50% by president, 25% by provost and 25% by department. Senator Hanna asked if it was college funded or by program? Martin did not have that answer. Senator Stone expressed enthusiasm for the Eduram proposal as someone who has taught extensively off campus. President Bacon and Vice-President Alspach expressed concern about not being able to opt out of replacement for the year. Martin said this should be allowed. Senator Johnson and Senator Berghoef asked about software needed on computer for job? Martin said use the approval process through TAC. Martin went on to discuss the replacement of the SAN</p>

	(one in West and one in UC) which will provide an additional backup. Office 365 is being extended to students. A redundant server was donated to the makerspace in the National Elastomer Center. Professor Venkatesh asked about how one requests space on servers such as the National Elastomer Center? Martin said make a request through TAC.
8.	<p>Announcements</p> <p>President Eisler gave comments on the recent power outage and need to subscribe to the emergency text messages. He also spoke briefly on the gun incident and noted it was better to err on the side of warning v. not warning. The choice was made to shelter in place, which disrupted some athletic events on campus. The administration is reviewing relevant policies. Eisler also noted that there are several items in the tax bill which could be detrimental such as making tuition waivers taxable and doubling the standard deduction. A state house bill would require providing every student a notice on the total amount of their federal loans. He is collecting student stories for his commencement address. He encouraged faculty and staff to come to the holiday reception. Senator Zyla asked about the student death off campus. President Eisler said he was unaware. Dean Reifert noted it was not related to Ferris.</p> <p>Provost Blake had no report</p>
9.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>No comments made in open forum.</p>
10.	The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.