

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Regular Meeting
April 4, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

I. Call to Order: President Dakkuri called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Attendance

Officers Present: President Adnan Dakkuri, Vice-President Robert Loesch, Secretary Douglas Haneline

Officers Absent: None

Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Aiken, Bandstra, A., Bandstra, J., Berghoef, Borst, Carter, Cline, Cron, Griffin, Hanna, Hettiarachchy, Jewett, Key, Klope, Kouider, Liszewski, Lovsted, McMartin, Morton, Nagel, Papo, Potter, Purvis, Sun, Thapa, Thomas, Tymes, Wheeler, Watson, Weemaes

Senators Absent: Conati, Heck, Lewis, McLean, Papo (excused), Schmidt

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: President David Eisler, Student Government President Jon Gaskell, VPAA Michael Harris

Guests: Roxanne Cullen, Leonard Johnson, Matthew Klein, Andy Karafa, Ellen Haneline, Julie Coon

III. Approval of the March 14, 2006 Minutes – Motion by Senator Aiken, with support from Senator Griffin, to approve the March 14, 2006. Motion carried.

IV. Open Forum – No comments.

V. Reports

President Dakkuri had no report.

Vice President Loesch reminded Senators who sit on various Senate committees that annual reports are due at the end of April. Article 8, Section 10 of the Academic Senate Charter specifies what is needed from each committee.

Secretary Haneline had no report.

VI. Committee Reports

A. University Curriculum Committee – UCC Chair Leonard Johnson updated Senators on the nineteen proposals acted on since the last meeting. That document is Attachment A of these minutes. Dr. Johnson commended Julie Coon and the Nursing faculty for the excellent preparation of the proposal to be presented for approval today.

B. Senate Elections Committee – Elections Committee Chair Jay Hettiarachchy thanked all those that took part in the elections activity. Special thanks to student Jonathan Gaskell for his expertise in electronic ballot casting. A 2006-07 Academic Senate roster is Attachment B of these minutes.

VII. New Business

A. BS Nursing – Motion by Senator Tymes, with support from Senator Aiken, moved to approve the BS Nursing proposal. Following brief discussion, motion passed unanimously.

B. Grade Change Policy – Motion by Senator Thapa, with support from Senator Sun, to adopt the Academic Policy and Standards Committees' Grade Change Policy. Following a lengthy discussion, Senator Aiken called the question, supported by Senator Abbasabadi, question fails. Senator Griffin, with support from Senator Aiken, moved to send the policy back to committee for revision. Motion carried.

- C. Merger of Faculty Research and Professional Development Committee** – Senator McMartin, with support from Senator Kouider, moved to support the recommendation of the Academic Policy and Standards Committee, that while the proposal to combine the Professional Development Committee and the Faculty Research Committee and create the Faculty Research and Development Committee has merit, it is not a viable solution at this time. Motion carried.
- D. VPAA Response to Academic Program Review Recommendations - Dr. Haneline**, Chair of the Academic Program Review Council, commented that the response (Attachment C) to the Committee recommendations was received by the Academic Senate on March 1, 2006, one of the earliest responses in recent history. A complete document is filed in the Academic Senate Office.
- E. Political Engagement Project – Senator Berghoef, with support from Senator Key**, moved that Whereas Ferris State University is one of only eight institutions of higher education chosen by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to conduct a pilot research and pedagogy project focusing upon increasing political engagement among undergraduate students; This "Political Engagement Project" is cosponsored by The New York Times and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; Political awareness and engagement are as essential as knowledge in the discipline for our graduates; and both political consciousness and social responsibility enhance the potential for student leadership on campus; Be it resolved that the Academic Senate at Ferris State University keenly recognizes and fully supports the University's participation in the Political Engagement Project that was initiated by the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Motion carried.

VIII. Announcements

Roxanne Cullen, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, brought the following updates from the Vice President's Office. Planning presentations were held on March 31, 2006. The entire document is available at the VPAA's website for your review and comment. The Assessment Fair will be held on April 28, 2006. Dr. Cullen extended appreciation to Dr. Dakkuri from Vice President's Office.

President Dakkuri extended thanks to Dr. Karafa and the Academic Policy and Standards Committee for their work. He thanked Dr. Hettiarachchy for his guidance during the recent Academic Senate elections. He reminded Senators that attendance is required from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Senate meeting days. Individuals who are elected to the Academic Senate must clear the two hour time period to attend or should give the Senate seat to another interested individual. If your scheduled cannot be cleared and you have been elected to serve on the Academic Senate, please contact the Vice President's Office for assistance or support.

- IX. Open Forum – Senator Hanna** expressed his concern that the Senate Retreat needs to be an entire day planning retreat. **Senator Jewett** expressed his concern that the Senate Retreat needs to be held at an off-campus location. **Senator Weemaes** expressed concern that as a new Senator, the Retreat is a very valuable tool. **Senator Liszewski** advised Senators that National Alcohol Screening Day is April _____, 2006. **Senator Wheeler** reminded Senators that Sunday, April 9, is the International Festival in the Dome Room at Rankin Center.

- X. Adjournment – 11:10 a.m.**

Douglas Haneline, Secretary

Adnan Dakkuri, President