

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Regular Meeting
January 15, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

- I. **Call to Order: President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
- II. **Attendance**
Officers Present: President Richard Griffin, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa, Secretary Lucy Ngoh
Officers Absent: Past President Adnan Dakkuri
Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Alspach, Berghoef, Beistle, Carter, Cline, Cron, Danley, Drake, Ding, Goosen, Hanna, D., Hanna, H., Hancock, Haneline, Hansen, Jewett, Kavanaugh, Klatt, Kouider, Liszewski, Nagel, Papo, Purvis, Sanderson, Sun, Van de Mark, Watson
Senators Absent: McMartin (excused), Hardman, Jorsch, McLean, Potter, Nelson (excused), Morcom, Weemaes
Ex-Officio Members Present: Interim VPAA Tom Oldfield
Ex-Officio Members Absent: President David Eisler, Joe Viviano, FSU Student Govt. President
Guests: Michelle Johnston, Matthew Klein, David Nicol, Don Flickinger
- III. **Approval of the minutes of December 4, 2007 – Motion by Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Thapa, moved to approve the minutes with the following correction: Senator Carter was absent and excused.**
- IV. **Open Forum – Senator Thapa** asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Walter Betts, Michigan College of Optometry faculty member who passed away during Christmas recess.

Senator Hansen expressed a concern regarding FSUS and suggested an Ad Hoc committee be formed to study a possible change in the format of the course (change from 16 weeks to 8 weeks). **Vice President Thapa** stated that FSUS is basically an orientation program and that students should not be charged for orientation. He also suggested that the course be taught at the department level and that it be optional for departments. **Senator Haneline** stated that FSUS was reviewed by the Academic Program Review Council (APRC) this past year with satisfactory findings and that he would be hesitant to add a committee to override current processes that are in place and working well. **Senator Nagel** stated that setting up an Ad Hoc committee would not diminish the value of the APRC's work. **Senator Hansen** stated that he was not aware of an existing committee and that he would not want to change any of the philosophy or the activities of the course. He said that he only suggested a change in the format to make it more palatable. **Senator Ngoh said that the APRC made some recommendations for FSUS and that the program should be given time to implement those recommendations.**

Senator Alspach stated that at the last Senate meeting Senator Watson reported on the Study Abroad proposals and the process. Her concern is that the timeliness of the changes may have prevented some programs from getting their students organized and ready. All of the approved proposals are now posted on the UCEL website. In the future, it is hoped that the new approval process will not slow down the timelines that study abroad coordinators need.

Senator Hanna asked if the UCEL websites indicates whether any of the programs received global status (re: General Education). **Senator Alspach** replied that she believed that information could be found at the General Education website.

Assistant VP Flickinger stated he has a list of study abroad proposals that do not have global status.

Senator Purvis told Senators that there is no report from the UCC and he urged Senators that all curriculum proposals and adjustments need to be through the UCC in the next three weeks in order to be effective in fall semester.

V. Reports

President Griffin told Senators that Dr. Eisler was at a VPAA interview and could not attend today. The Senate Executive board will be meeting at the end of the month.

Vice President Thapa reported that all the committees are functioning and reminded Senators that nominations are now open for the International Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Robert Friar is the chair of the committee.

Secretary Ngoh had no report at this time.

VI. Announcements

Interim Vice President Oldfield, reporting for Dr. Eisler in his absence, reminded Senators of the Stakeholder Conference on Jan. 22. He further urged Senators to review the Diversity Plan and send their comments to Dr. Pilgrim. Dr. Oldfield also said that Martin Luther King week begins on Sunday, Jan. 20th and the Festival of the Arts takes place during the month of February.

Dr. Oldfield continued with a report from the VPAA's Office stating that Unit Planning is beginning soon. Academic Affairs will present its plan on February 5. He encouraged Senators to send their suggestions on Unit Planning as soon as possible.

Assistant VP Flickinger said that the Dean of Allied Health search continues, with a campus interview with Dr. Ellen Haneline on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 11:00 a.m. He also said that a series of Academic Affairs Policy letters will be sent to the Academic Policy and Standards Committee for review and revision. Also, that Study abroad trips planned for Summer 09 need to begin processing now.

Dr. Oldfield stated that Dean Kevin Alexander will be leaving the Michigan College of Optometry during summer and a search committee will be established soon. He is hopeful that a new dean will be in place by July 1, 2008.

X. Open Forum

Senator Danley offered a correction to a statement he made at the last Senate meeting. Wayne State did not return the contingency fee as he reported. He applauded Dr. Eisler and the Board for returning that fee to our students.

XI. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 10:22 a.m.

Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

Richard Griffin, President