

**Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Regular Meeting  
December 4, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.  
West Campus Community Center**

I. **Call to Order: President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. **Attendance**

*Officers Present:* President Richard Griffin, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa, Secretary Lucy Ngoh, Past President Adnan Dakkuri

*Officers Absent:*

*Senators Present:* Abbasabadi, Alspach, Berghoef, Beistle, Cline, Cron, Danley, Drake, Ding, Goosen, Hanna, D., Hanna, H., Hancock, Haneline, Hansen, Jewett, Jorsch, Kavanaugh, Klatt, Kouider, Liszewski, McMartin, Morcom, Nelson, Papo, Potter, Purvis, Sanderson, Sun, Van de Mark, Watson, Weemaes

*Senators Absent:* Carter (excused), Ding, Hardman, McLean, Nagel, Nelson (excused), Papo

*Ex-Officio Members Present:* President David Eisler, Interim VPAA Tom Oldfield

*Ex-Officio Members Absent:* Joe Viviano, FSU Student Govt. President

*Guests:* David Nicol, Don Flickinger, Leonard Johnson, Mike Cooper, Mike Cairns, Sheila MacEachron

III. **Approval of the minutes of November 6, and November 13, 2007 – Motion by Senator Sun, with support from Senator Thapa**, to approve the minutes of November 6 and November 13, 2007, with the following corrections to the November 6 minutes: Item 4, insert following “register for classes” for 5 hours, and insert “Questions pertaining to the incident that were asked by a staff member and Dr. Sun were not answered” following that sentence. Also, under Old Business, item A, Senator Haneline stated “that he”, and item 8, New Business, Digital “Resources” needs spelling corrected.

IV. **Open Forum – Senator Sun** distributed minutes of meetings held with the Senate Executive Committee representatives and individuals involved with the student registration process. Those minutes are included in Attachment A. Senator Sun thanked the Senate Executive Board for their guidance and help with the issue. He said registration did not have problems, that it was a human error, and that the system was not turned on as previously advertised. Senator Sun said the registration problem was troubling, but even more troubling was having questions ignored. Also, he said at the meeting Dr. Burcham and Ms. Grinnell stated that a committee will be created to review the registration process. Maude Bigford and Kent Sun will be part of that committee.

**Senator Haneline** expressed concerns in his student advisor role. Since the university is no longer printing a paper catalog, it is very difficult to know what prerequisites are required for Ferris courses. He suggested that some sort of bound materials listing courses and prerequisites be issued and updated periodically so that advising duties can be carried out smoothly.

**Senator Van de Mark** stated that Kaye Anderson, College of Business secretary, has developed a wonderful model of the type of materials Dr. Haneline is looking for. This model has been distributed to the Marketing department, as well as other departments on campus. President Griffin stated that he also supports the suggestion of a campus catalog.

V. **Reports**

**President Griffin** reported that the Senate Executive Committee has been working on the recent student registration issue with positive result.

**Vice President Thapa** welcomed part-time Senators Hanna and Jorsch, both from the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Secretary Ngoh** had no report at this time.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**Dr. Leonard Johnson, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee**, advised Senators that proposals requiring Senate action need to be at the Senate Office prior to January 23, 2008 for inclusion on the March, 2008 agenda. The UCC will meet at noon on Wednesday's next semester. Proposals reviewed since the last Senate meeting are listed in the report (Attachment B) distributed at today's meeting with one requiring Senate action.

**Senator Watson gave an oral report to the senate at the request of the Senate Executive committee, information on the newly revised study abroad policy ( Sept 07), the meeting held with the administration to discuss the new policy and the results of that meeting on the revised study abroad policy (Attachment C). No questions were asked from the senators regarding the oral report.**

**VII. Presentation – Dr. Michael Cairns and Dr. Michael Cooper, co-chairs of the HLC Steering Committee** gave the Senators a quick overview of the HLC visit and briefly went over documents (Attachment D) provided in the December Senate packet. They urged Senators to volunteer for any of the various criteria committees and to encourage their friends and colleagues to do so also.

**VIII. New Business**

**Senator Alspach, with support from Senator Haneline**, moved to approve the Nuclear Medicine Technology Bachelors Degree. Sheila MacEachron, Nuclear Medicine Technology faculty member, was available to respond to questions and concerns about the new degree. Following discussion, motion carried.

**IX. Announcements**

**President Eisler** thanked the Senate Executive Committee for their work with the registration concerns. He apologized and stated that this type of problem will not happen again. Dr. Eisler stated that he too believes that paper copies of a catalog are needed and remain a valuable tool to counselors and faculty members. He will be looking into that issue. Dr. Eisler said that the legislature really does not know what kind of revenue the new taxes will produce. He believes that we should prepare for an Executive Order in the near future. He said the state is done with the budget for now, and it appears there will be no capital outlay. Dr. Eisler is hopeful that the Optometry building will be funded this spring. He advised Senators that Legislative Luncheon Day will be held on March 26, 2008, in Lansing, and he urged Senators to attend if possible. He also urged Senators to try to attend Strategic Planning meetings or send their opinions to him via email. Dr. Eisler stated that Dr. David Pilgrim of the Diversity Office is moving ahead with the Diversity Plan, and that the Provost search is moving along nicely also, with candidates being on campus perhaps as early as late January or early February 2008. Dr. Eisler informed Senators that the Ferris Holiday Celebration will be held on December 11 at the Dome Room in Rankin Center from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.. He said commencement will be held on December 15. In closing, Dr. Eisler thanked the Senators for their hard work and wished them a wonderful holiday season.

**Interim Vice President Oldfield** stated that the VP's Office has approved eight (8) study abroad proposals and he is hoping to increase opportunities for our students. He said that our students will be traveling with the National Student Exchange Program and we are hoping to grow that program also and increase international partnerships. The VPAA and Dr. Burcham's office are working together to make Ferris more "transfer friendly"; they are looking at perhaps a transfer guide and a catalog. **VP Oldfield informed Senators that there is an additional FERPA screen for Self Serve Banner users to log into each time they access the system. "I Agree" will need to be checked at the bottom of the screen at each log in. Concerns were expressed by several Senators that it should not be necessary to check the FERPA screen each and every time they access Self Serve Banner (many times a day during registration). VP Oldfield stated that he will check on a resolution to that issue.**

**Senator Hanna** asked if any of the approved study abroad proposals have been given "global" general education status. **Asst. VPAA Flickinger** responded that some already have global status, but that he has not reviewed some of the proposals and could not answer the question.

**X. Open Forum**

**Senator Danley** asked Dr. Eisler if there were plans to return contingency fees to students. He stated that he has been bothered by the fee and that the Detroit Free Press reported that Wayne State returned their fees to students. Dr. Eisler reported that 4.5 million dollars was received from the state. **Senator Danley** stated that he was concerned that the contingency fee would remain in effect for Spring semester also. **Dr. Eisler** stated that the contingency fee was applied for two purposes; first, it was applied against the deferred payment from the state, which was \$4.5 million dollars. The contingency fee was applied to reduce the potential budget cut, but would only reduce \$2.2 million of that cut. Secondly, it was to be used as a potential hedge against additional budget cuts this year. He said our budget was reduced twice for Fall semester by nearly \$400,000. To balance the budget we needed to increase tuition by 7.2%, however, we increased tuition by 6.7%. Currently, we are approximately \$700,000 down from last year at this time. Dr. Eisler will review the Wayne State story. After Wayne State removed the contingency fee, their increase is 13%. After we remove the contingency fee, our increase is 6.7%. Dr. Eisler said he was opposed to increasing the tuition by 9.2% and keeping it for the entire year, as he believes that tuition would never then go down. The contingency fee has not been spent and it is his hope that we will not have to spend it. If we do not have to spend it, we will find some sort of process for what happens with it. Last year our budget was cut by \$847,000.00

**VP Thapa** thanked **Senator Sun** for bringing the student registration issue to the Senate.

**Senator Hanna** asked Dr. Eisler if summer and recent payments for financial aid have been delayed, and if so, do we have the legal authority to do so. Dr. Eisler stated that he was not aware that this is factual and he will check.

**XI. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 10:48 a.m.**

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Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

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Richard Griffin, President