

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
Tuesday, April 24, 2007– 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

I. **Call to Order:** **President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. **Attendance**

Officers Present: President Richard Griffin, Secretary William Papo, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa

Officers Absent: None

Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Bandstra, A., Bandstra, J., Beistle, Berghoef, Borst, Carter, Cline, Cron, Danley, Drake, Hancock, Haneline, Hanna, Jewett, Karafa, Kavanaugh, Klatt, Kouider, Liszewski, McMartin, Nagel, Nelson, Potter, Purvis, Sanderson, Schmidt, Sun, Taylor, Thomas, Tymes, Van De Mark, Watson, Weemaes

Senators Absent: Dakkuri (excused), Klope (excused), Hettiarachchy

Ex-Officio Members Present: President David Eisler, Elizabeth Schmidt

Ex-Officio Members Absent: VPAA Michael Harris

Guests: Leonard Johnson, David Nicol, Pat Klarecki, Richard Cochran, Bill Boras, Don Green, David Scott, Pat Klarecki, Clayton Rye, Donald Roy

III. **Approval of the April 3, 2007 Minutes** – Motion by **Senator Haneline**, with support from **Senator Thapa**, to approve the minutes as written.

IV. **Open Forum**

Senator Haneline reported that he recently attended a Higher Learning Commission Conference and learned that the federal bodies would like to turn the accrediting agencies into regulatory agencies. At this point in time, they are still allowing universities to create “their own yardstick” regarding their goals.

Assistant VP Klarecki reported that our Dean and Department Heads participated in video conference. Several copies will be shared with the Board of Trustees and with the Academic Senate.

V. **Reports**

President Griffin had no report, other than a small change in the agenda. Dr. Haneline will have an item under new business.

Dr. Thapa, Senate Vice President, distributed to Senators a summarization of committee work. That report is Attachment A of these minutes. He thanked committee chairs and participants for their work.

Senator Nagel expressed a concern about seats on committees being left vacant due to not enough volunteers from colleges. He asked that this item be revisited at the Senate Retreat in August.

Senator Papo, Secretary of the Senate, reported that all agenda’s and minutes are available at the Senate website, as well as Senate Committee information.

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. **University Curriculum Committee – UCC Chair Leonard Johnson** thanked committee members for their hard work and dedication during the past academic year. Three proposals are on the agenda today of approval. The cover sheet on the BAS proposal has an error on the cover sheet that will be corrected prior to sending to the VPAA’s Office. His report is Attachment B of these minutes. Dr.’s Griffin and Thapa thanked Dr. Johnson for his service as the chair..

B. **Radiation Safety Committee – Senator Jewett** reported that the committee is now formed and has met regarding the revision of the license currently held by FSU Big Rapids campus. This license is being reviewed due to the addition on the Nuclear Medicine Program at the Grand Rapids location.

VII. **Old Business**

- A. Student Life Committee Recommendations – Tracy Glentz**, committee chair, was unable to attend due to medical reasons. **Senator Thapa, with support from Senator Sun, moved to accept the Student Life Committee recommendations. Senator Papo offered the friendly amendment to split the motion into two motions, original maker accepted the amendment.**

Motion One: The committee requests that the University implement an advising session workshop to faculty on not only what Banner offers, but how to approach students with issues on a personal level. These session workshops could be offered to faculty during Faculty Week in August.

Senator Tymes, committee member, explained that one of the problems is the number of advisees each faculty member has, sometime over 200. One suggestions forwarded by the committee is to hold workshops for faculty members regarding advising. Student Government President Libby Schmidt stated that she did not feel qualified to speak on the issue, having not attended the meeting when this issue was discussed. She stated that she is aware of a computer program being used by other universities with some success.

Senator Papo suggested that “personal” be changed to “individual” at the end of the first sentence. **Senator Haneline** suggested that last sentence of the motion be amended to include “if there is interest”. **Senator Schmidt** stated that a larger concern would be if faculty members did not want to attend an advising workshop. **Senator Jewett** stated that workshops already exist. **Senator Tymes** suggested that we must take advantage of all the tools that new Banner system has to offer.

Senator Nagel, with support from Senator Tymes, offered the friendly amendment: “a workshop on academic advising of students be offered during faculty week”. Motion to table carried.

Senator Hanna, with support from Senator Thomas, moved to ask the Dean’s assess current academic advising practices and policies in their respective colleges and present that information to the Senate at the Senate Planning Retreat in August 07. **Senator Papo** calls the question, question carried. Motion carried.

Senator Papo, with support from Senator McMartin, moved to send Motion #2 to the existing Student Fees Committee for review. Following a brief discussion, **Senator Papo** calls the question, question carried, main motion carried.

VIII. New Business

- A. Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Papo**, presented the resolution: Whereas: Dr. Michael Harris has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs from July 2004 to May 2007; Dr. Harris has provided oversight and policy guidance to the Division of Academic Affairs and to the University; Dr. Harris has served as a member of the Academic Senate for three academic years; Be it resolved that: The Academic Senate thanks Dr. Harris for his service and wishes him good luck in the future. Motion carried.
- B. Athletic Advisory Committee Recommendations – Senator Papo, with support from Senator Tymes, moved to approve the recommendation.** Committee Chair David Scott gave Senators a brief background on the motion and asked for their support in distributing the information to faculty members. Following a brief discussion, **Senator Papo called the question, question carried, main motion defeated.**
- C. Small Business & Entrepreneurship Minor – Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Tymes, moved to approve the minor.** Following a brief discussion, **Senator Haneline** called the question, question carried, main motion carried.
- D. Changes to the Business Administration Major – Senator Thomas, with support from Senator Tymes, moved to support the proposed changes.** Following a lengthy discussion, **Senator Papo** called the question, question carried, main motion carried.
- E. BAS Software Engineering – Senator Papo, with support from Senator Bandstra, moved to approve the new program to be offered at FSU-GR with the addenda attached (Attachment C of**

these minutes). Don Green, Academic Dean of FSU-GR assured Senators all changes suggested by the University Curriculum Committee would be met and that the name would be changed to “Digital Media Software Engineering”. He thanked the Senate and the UCC for their assistance. It is intended that this program will seek ABET accreditation. **Senator Papo called the question, question carried, main motion carried (23 yes, 10 no).**

IX. Announcements

FSU President David Eisler thanked Senators for their work this academic year.

X. Adjournment – 11:25 p.m.

William Papo, Secretary

Richard Griffin, President