

## **New Website, Inclement Weather, and GLBT Support Discussed**

The Student Government of Ferris State University's general assembly met this past Wednesday to discuss several resolutions on the table as well as other developments regarding the organization's website.

Webmaster Joe Viviano worked diligently since the beginning of the New Year to completely redesign and reformat the Student Government website, which can be accessed at <http://studentgov.ferris.edu>. The website, which has been active for a full week, hopes to act as a portal for students looking for information on the organization. The site currently contains biographical information on each representative, documents for download such as resolutions and constitutional information, as well as press releases from each week and minutes from each meeting.

Executive Vice President Michael Finch, as well as advisor Dr. Daniel Burcham, discussed the Inclement Weather resolution, which was introduced last week. The piece of legislation hoped to encourage professors and deans to cancel classes in the case of inclement weather that hinders travel for commuter students. New information obtained comes in the form of Ferris' business policy letters that hold professors responsible for canceling classes by taking "sick days" from their allotment. The general assembly hopes to come up with a possible solution soon. The legislation was tabled indefinitely, but may be rewritten and reintroduced at a later date.

Last week, Representative James Mikula introduced a resolution to support the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (D-SAGA) in their efforts to establish a dedicated office and staff member on campus to entrust the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and ally (GLBTA) issues of students, faculty, staff and community members. After much discussion and conflicting views, the resolution was passed by both houses. Student Government will now encourage the University to look in to establishing an office with staff.

Representative Joelle Sawisch introduced legislation this week to encourage the University to begin standardization of the accessible door openers on campus. Sawisch cited a current lack of standardization that exists where door openers using "buttons" are available in some buildings, but door openers with "heat sensors" are in other buildings. The problem encountered with "heat sensing" door openers lies with the physical strain that can be

caused to  
disabled persons unable to reach their fingers to the small sensor, as well as disability  
assistance  
dogs that cannot operate the door openers with their paws. The legislation will be up  
for vote  
next week.

Student Government will meet Wednesday next week to discuss committee progress in  
time-sensitive areas regarding textbook ISBN numbers and off-campus housing, as  
well as  
introduce and vote on pending legislation.

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