

## Student Government Establishes Charge

The Student Government of Ferris State University's general assembly met this past Wednesday to discuss progress from the first meeting of the semester, which occurred January 11.

Associate Vice President for Internal Assessment Ronald Lovelace introduced a schedule of office hours for all Student Government and Finance Division representatives. This schedule will begin in the third week of January and will be posted outside the Student Government office and available online for view. This action ensures that a person will be available in the Student Government office from the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day to serve the needs of the students.

Associate Vice President for Finance Libby Schmidt mentioned that there are still openings in the Finance Division and students that are interested should contact Student Government. Division members will be in charge of meeting bi-weekly to assist in disbursing Student Activity Fee funds to registered student organizations on campus submitting requests for funding.

Student Government also worked to form new committees for the winter semester from last meeting; charges for these committees were due this week and were presented at the general assembly meeting. This semester's committees (so far to date) include the renter's fair committee (chaired by Gregg Koteskey), which will assist students with their off-campus housing options; the readership committee (chaired by Maria Knirk), which has the charge of funding and distribution of the New York Times and USA Today newspapers for free in each of the major buildings on campus; the parking ticket funding committee (chaired by Zack East), which will have the charge of discussing returning part of Ferris' parking ticket revenue to the Student Activity Fee; and the textbooks committee (chaired by Todd McGee), which will work to provide ISBN book information to students so as to offer them more textbook purchasing options. These committees will begin work and will post results on each of their respective areas at each general assembly meeting.

President Jonathan Gaskell asked the General Assembly to form a frequently asked questions (FAQ) website for students in regards to everything about Ferris. The GA

worked to come up with many items to research and provide information so that students may soon find a majority of their common questions answered. Representative Kevin Simon presented his findings after using the Freedom of Information Act rights, which allow public Universities, among many other agencies, to release information. Simon, who is leaving the general assembly due to other leadership positions, offered the general assembly a chance to view the documents which listed information on budgets for housing at Ferris, as well as budgets for DPS, and salaries for some select faculty and staff members.

Several pieces of legislation were on the table for their first reading (discussion only); the first being the discussion of encouragement of adoption of University Advancement and Marketing's graphics standards. Student Government recently began use of the new standards so as to set an example for students and administration in utilizing the tools available from the Marketing and Communications office of UA&M. The second piece of legislation called for an amendment to the constitution stating that the general assembly would now have the ability to create and approve a mission statement for the organization on a yearly basis as opposed to one permanent statement. The final piece of legislation to enter discussion was in regards to the organization of the operations of Internal Assessment. Each of these pieces of legislation will be up for adoption at the next meeting.

The next Student Government general assembly meeting will be Wednesday, January 25, 2006, and, as usual, the public, students, staff and faculty are invited to attend.

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