

Student Government Tackles Technology and Other Issues

The Student Government of Ferris State University met this week and welcomed input from committees, guests from the Information Services and Technology office, and introduced and debated on approval of a record number of resolutions and amendments.

President Jonathan Gaskell commented on the high amount of legislation discussed this week and looks forward to just as many documents, if not more, for next week's meeting. Research into the past ten years of Student Government legislation indicates that, if the organization continues to introduce more legislation, this semester will hold a record of having the most legislation introduced; something Gaskell is proud to have occur during his Presidency.

Legislation up for vote at Wednesday's meeting included Constitutional Amendment C06-01-03, which called to raise the Student Government required GPA for membership from 2.0 to 2.5, but was voted down; Constitutional Amendment C-06-01-04 asked to appoint an official treasurer to the organization, but was tabled to next week; Resolution 06-01-07 called for an extension of weekend hours for the FLITE Library and was passed unanimously; and Resolution 06-01-08, a resolution that encourages the hiring of a Greek Life advisor and also passed unanimously. Legislation being introduced this week included a resolution that calls for professors to indicate whether their classes will be writing-intensive, an issue that will benefit disabled students that have writing difficulties; and an amendment to the Constitution asking for executive board members chosen by the elected President in Student Government to be involved with the organization for 12 months or more before being allowed to take office as a cabinet member. This legislation will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Special guests from the Information Services and Technology office presented their progress to the general assembly regarding former problems faced by students in the areas of network connectivity and network speed, as well as problems with registration for students. Jim Cook, Director of Technical Services for the IS&T division explained that most, if not all connectivity and speed issues on the campus network have been resolved, and that other projects such as wireless internet in academic buildings and migration to the new Banner registration system are currently on-the-docket for work. The guests thanked Student Government for their concern and input following their first appearance from the fall semester.

In committee reports, progress was being made in many areas of committee work. Maria Knirk, readership committee chair, reported on the group's attempt to discuss other types of newspapers and periodicals students would like to see on campus via a survey that will be released, and also explained the need to find funding for next school year for the readership project. The textbooks committee reported on a small setback with their website, but still plans to release the information in some form on the site for the next semester. Additionally, the group is making an effort to meet with Great Lakes books regarding the ability to debit book charges to student accounts at the store.

Additional committee reports came from the newly formed diversity committee, which recently began an interest in having Bulldog Radio and the Residence Hall Association move their offices to the Rankin Student Center to bring student-centered organizations to the building and allow disabled students better accessibility. The

special events committee is also working on WILL Conference and AMU Conference planning, as well as planning Pancakes for the President for this semester. The newly formed recruitment committee, as well as the political action committee, both submitted their charges for operation and discussed moving forward with work on their ideas and projects.

In Finance Division news, Associate Vice President of Finance Libby Schmidt presented two allocations needing approval by the general assembly; the first being the Music Industry Management Association's Autumn Alive concert. This year the group is hoping to bring a country music act to Big Rapids. The allocation for the event was approved in the amount of \$37,140. The FSU Gospel Choir also requested funding for their gospel event, to take place on the day of Ferris Fest and act as a supplement to the day of music. Their event was also approved for the full allocation amount of \$1,543.62.