

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC SENATE

*Minutes of the Meeting
October 17, 1989*

ATTENDANCE

1.1. *Members Present.* Anderson, Bandstra, Bethel, Breault, Burtch, Carey, Chaffin, Cook, Doneth, Etienne, Ferdowsi, Frank, Gillette, Groner, Henry, Janzen, Johnson, Linta, Matrosic, Nerbonne, Oldfield, Pearson, Peterson, Pomnichowski, Ravell, Russell, Sickelsteel, Thapa, Uniacke, Valas, Vasicek.

1.2. *Members Absent.* Baker (ASG), Beetley, (excused), Devlin (excused), Hardman (excused), Johnston (excused), Lewis (excused), Lovsted (excused), Mullet (excused).

1.3. *Guests.* Jim Baker, Bill Boras, Charles Hurt, Robert Kern, Robert Krueger, Phyllis Powell.

CALL TO ORDER

2.1. President Oldfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the President's Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. The minutes of the October 3 meeting were approved as presented.

FACULTY FORUM

4.1. No faculty/staff concerns were presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Oldfield

5.1. Oldfield requested that, in the interest of time, paper distribution to Senators during Senate meetings be accomplished in advance of the meetings as much as possible.

5.2. Three important issues have been deferred to the November 7 Senate meeting: the recommendations of the Academic Disciplinary Review Committee, the proposed Conference Center policies and procedures, and the report of the Faculty Evaluation for Development Committee.

5.3. The Senate Executive Committee has raised to the administration several questions regarding a proposed five million dollar addition to the Plastics Engineering Technology Program, which is to include the construction of a new facility to house a program in rubber technology. Among the concerns of the Executive Committee are (1) the fact that no program in rubber technology yet exists at Ferris, although the construction of a facility to house such a program is third on the list of capital funding priorities, (2) the fact that such an extension to the current plastics program may prove to be a tremendous drain on institutional resources to serve a relative small number of students, and (3) the fear that the decision to go ahead with this program may have been driven chiefly from outside business

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and industrial interests (who may or may not provide substantial funding support). The Executive Committee will keep the Senate and faculty informed of further developments.

5.4. Oldfield informed the Senate that President Popovich has strongly urged the Senate to continue the study of semester feasibility, and Oldfield is recommending the formation of a campus-wide task force with representation from faculty, administration, and staff to explore the matter.

5.5 The Senate Executive Committee has urged the President and the Vice President for Academic Affairs to create a full-time position with a nation-wide search for an assistant vice president to oversee curricular matters.

SPECIAL REPORT: CAMPUS-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

6.1. At the request of the Senate Executive Committee, Bill Boras, chair of the committee studying the proposed campus-wide communications network, returned to the Senate to discuss some of the details of the proposal. Boras explained that the immediate goal of the proposal is to achieve total connectivity for voice/video/data communications throughout the entire campus. However, further discussion indicated that there appears to be no long-range master plan in place concerning this network.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

University Curriculum Committee

7.1. Pomnichowski reported that there were no proposals ready for the Senate at this time; however, two proposals are forthcoming.

Academic Program Review Council

8.1. Chair Krueger presented the Senate with a draft of a proposed process for selecting the programs to undergo the preliminary data gathering--the first step in the program review process. He pointed out that no program will undergo a full review before it has completed this data gathering.

8.2. Matrosic moved that the Senate accept the proposal from the Academic Program Review Council for the selection of programs for the initial data gathering process. Bethel supported. Motion carried.

Senate Appointments Committee

9.1. Matrosic noted that two vacancies still occur on the Summer Quarter, four on the Teaching Excellence Award Committee, and that students are still needed for the Substance Abuse Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

10.1. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised Affirmative Action Plan

11.1. Gillette moved that the Senate endorse the University's Revised Affirmative Action Plan. Thapa supported.

11.2. After Phyllis Powell, the Affirmative Action Officer, reviewed the process by which the original Affirmative Action Plan was rewritten, and then addressed several concerns raised by various Senators, the **Motion carried unanimously.**

Strategic Planning Focus Document

12.1 There was no discussion of the Strategic Planning Focus Document, although President Oldfield urged Senators to forward their comments and concerns to Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee Chair Robert Ferguson.

FACULTY FORUM

13.1. Valas raised a concern over the Timme Library's rumored acquisition of a collection from the library of a defunct college. It was determined that more information was needed on this matter.

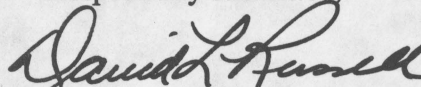
MEETINGS

14.1. The next regular meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Tuesday, November 7, 1989, at 10:00 a.m., in the President's Room, Rankin Center.

ADJOURNMENT

19.1. President Oldfield declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Russell
Secretary

Approved:

