

Minutes of the Meeting
January 15, 1991

ATTENDANCE

1.1 Members Present. Anderson, Bacon, A. Bandstra, J. Bandstra, Beetley, Breault, Burtch, Carey, Caskey, M. Cook, Dudek, Etienne, Ferdowski, Groner, Henry, Horn, Kantar, King, Lovsted, Matrosic, Middleton, Muccio, Mullet, Oldfield, Ovans, Pearson, Peterson, Pomnichowski, Powell, Ravell, Russell, Thapa, Totten, Travis, Uniacke, Valas, Vasicek.

1.2 Members Absent. A. Cook, Lewis.

1.3 Guests. K. Acton, A. Afifi, J. Alexander, L. Bartholome, D. Burcham, M. Cairns, K. Carlton-Smith, J. Christafferson, K. Colvert, M. Curtis, B. Dilg, D. Frank, M. Gillette, S. Hammersmith, L. Hanson, R. Harris, M. A. Hashimi, F. Heck, W. Hoeksema, J. Howard, G. Huey, B. Jacobs, C. Jones, G. Kebler, M. Keigley, L. Keys, W. Klope, M. Lofquist, J. Lyon, J. Maas, M. Murnik, J. Nagelbush, G. Nash, B. Pillsbury, H. Popovich, D. Priebe, M. Puerta, B. Rao, S. Stover, E. Stuart, R. Swartz, J. Thorpe, R. von der Osten, G. Wales, R. Windle.

CALL TO ORDER

2.1 President Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the President's Room, Rankin Center.

OPEN FORUM

3.1 Bruce Dilg, Facility Management, Technology, expressed a concern about approval of the General Education Task Force Report at a time when semester conversion is also being implemented. He recommended that guidelines for general education requirements and semester conversion be established by the administration before the university implements new general education requirements.

3.2 Sandy Stover, Social Sciences, Arts and Sciences, acknowledged that a balance needs to be kept between general education requirements and professional courses, but urged the Senate to approve the General Educations Task Force Report. It is a compromise with which we need to live.

3.3 Mark Curtis, Product Design Engineering Technology, Technology, addressed the effect that the General Education Task Force proposal will have on the university's 2+2 programs. Because the associate degree would remain the same as it is now, the last two years of the 2+2 programs would require many general education courses, thereby making these programs 2+21/2 or 2+3 programs. We will need to explain this to interested students.

3.4 Jeff Christafferson, Physics, Arts and Sciences, read a prepared statement from the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee which opposed "all amendments to the General Education Task Force Report." Regarding the constitution of the General Education Council, the statement concluded, "The complexity of the decision required to judge whether the objectives of a particular course meets general education guidelines requires specialists in the disciplines. A representative cross-campus committee should not be used to determine whether particular content and pedagogy fulfill general education goals. That decision should be left to those with advanced degrees in the various liberal arts disciplines represented in the College of Arts and Sciences."

3.5 Rick Windle, Associated Student Government, stressed the importance of writing for F.S.U. students and asserted that general education requirements should not be cut back.

3.6 Gary Ovans, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Technology, observed that we need to recognize that the basic skills of many of our incoming students need to be improved, that we need to make prudent business decisions to retain our students, and that the strong technical core that Ferris students receive makes them competitive. Because new information regarding the General Education Task Force Report is still coming out, Ovans did not support the proposal as it stands.

3.7 Robert von der Osten, Languages and Literature, Arts and Sciences, reminded the Senate that in a long process the document has been reviewed, responded to and resubmitted. He further stated that weak skills do not preclude an understanding of the world, and that not just basic skills but a strong academic core is needed for general education.

3.8 Marv Lofquist, Acting Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences, reported that in reviewing some student transcripts he discovered that many Ferris students graduate after taking 13 quarters. There is a large transfer component; therefore, FSU needs to be compatible with other state schools in general education requirements.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Report of the General Education Task Force

4.1 Pomnichowski moved to take from the table the motion to extend first-reading acceptance to the General Education Task Force Report dated December 19. Dudek supported.

4.2 Peterson moved the previous question. The motion carried.

4.3 The motion for first-reading carried with a roll call vote of 32-4.

4.4 Valas moved that the motion be amended so that the Senate would vote separately on the Associate Degree requirements, the Baccalaureate Degree requirements and the minimum requirements. M. Cook supported.
The amendment was withdrawn.

5.1 Pearson moved to adjourn. Pomnichowski supported. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

6.1 The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Tuesday, January 22, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. in the President's Room, Rankin Center.

6.2 The next regular meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Tuesday, February 5, 1991, at 10:05 a.m. in the President's Room, Rankin Center.

ADJOURNMENT

7.1 President Russell declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Bandstra

Approved:
