

Ferris State University
Academic Senate
Minutes of the Meeting
March 10, 1992

ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 Members Present. R. Anderson, A. Bandstra, J. Bandstra, Beetley, Burtch, Caskey, A. Cook, M.J. Cook, Etienne, Ferdowski, Haneline, Heidemann, Henry, Holihan, Horn, Key, King, Matrosic, Muccio, Oldfield, Ovans, Pearson, Peterson, Pomnichowski, Ravell, Rumpf, D. Russell, Spaulding, Thapa, Totten, Travis, Uniacke, Valas, von der Osten.
- 1.2 Members Absent. T. Anderson (excused), Bacon (excused), Breault (excused), Lewis (excused), Powell, P. Russell (excused).
- 1.3 Guests. N. Emmanuel, S. Johnson, H. Popovich, R. Schottle, S. Sytsma.

CALL TO ORDER

- 2.1 President Russell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the President's Room, Rankin Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 The minutes of the February 4 meeting were approved as presented.
- 3.2 The minutes of the February 17 meeting were approved as amended.

OPEN FORUM

- 4.1 Vincent King, speaking as a faculty member, supported David Russell's pro-academic comments before the Board of Control at its February meeting during which cuts in the athletic program were considered. King commended Russell for his courage. King also noted that all cuts should have been presented at once for the Board's consideration.
- 4.2 Roger Peterson, as a representative of the professional staff, also commended Russell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Popovich

5.1 President Popovich expressed her appreciation to the Senate for meeting to discuss and vote on the proposal to cut athletic programs. Popovich then focused on the board's decision, which authorized the removal of a half-million dollars from the general budget. This does reduce the severity of the cuts which need to be made, but additional cuts still need to be made. One alternative is to generate more revenue, which the board is doing. We need to think carefully about how much we can and need to raise from students. Popovich encouraged faculty and staff to move beyond this issue to think about doing our *best* for academic programs. She will be talking with the unit leaders regarding an across-the-board freeze of salaries as we face a three-to-four-year budget problem. We also need to use our resources as wisely as we can and work together to serve our students.

Popovich noted that the Strategic Planning Committee is looking beyond our immediate economic problems to the next ten years. A plan is coming soon from Academic Affairs which, through program reviews, streamlining, and reductions, builds a bridge toward the goal of a strong institution.

Nash requested that the Court and Freelance Reporting Program be put on the review process, or that an expedited review be done.

President Russell

- 6.1 President Russell reported that he has sent a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Control, asking the Board to clear up some issues regarding the new fees for athletic programs.
- 6.2 Russell announced that Arts and Lectures Grants are being given this year and there is still some money left. Requests should go to Gary Ovans, Harold Baut, or the Senate office.
- 6.3 Russell asked for names for a committee which Gary Nash is constituting to review media distribution needs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

University Curriculum Committee

7.1 Chairwoman Etienne reminded Senators that the Friday afternoon hearings on semester conversion of programs are continuing. See FYI for schedule.

Election Committee

8.1 Chairman Uniacke reminded Senators that Senate nominations are due Wednesday, March 18, and will be posted Friday, March 20.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad hoc Ombudsman Study Committee

9.1 *von der Osten moved that the motion to return the Ombudsman Study Committee Report to the committee be removed from the table. Valas supported.*

9.2 *Pearson moved to amend the motion by adding that the committee consider suggestions from the Senate, including the following:*

1. *A core of faculty volunteers could be trained to serve as ombudsmen.*
2. *A systematic review of how the university delivers services to students should be made.*
3. *An ombudsman could be appointed to work in one area of service to students and when this is successful, expand to other areas.*
4. *The committee should focus on why an ombudsman is appropriate for the FSU.*

Thapa supported. The amendment unanimously carried.

9.3 *The main motion unanimously carried.*

9.4 *von der Osten moved that the Task Force give a status report at the April Senate meeting. Pearson supported. The motion carried.*

OPEN FORUM

12.1 Alex Pomnichowski objected to the way the February 17 meeting was called and the way the motion was changed. The Senate needs advance notice of what motion is being considered in order to work effectively.

12.2 Mary Jane Cook stated that because the Senate is not respected by other faculty, it is hard to get people to run for Senator. The Senate needs to get more respect and add visibility.

NEXT MEETING

13.1 The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on Tuesday, April 7, at 10:05 a.m. in the President's Room, Rankin Center.

ADJOURNMENT

14.1 President Russell declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Bandstra

Approved:
