

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
September 9, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

- I. **Call to Order: President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. (Delay in starting time due to technical issues)

- II. **Attendance:**
Officers Present: President Richard Griffin, Vice-President Michael Berghoef, Secretary Lucy Ngoh
Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Alspach, Beistle, Berghoef, Brandly, Cline, Cron, DeKoster, Drake, Goosen, Haneline, Hanna, D., Hansen, Hanna, H., Jewett, Klatt, Kouider, Lashaway-Bokina, Liszewski, Lovsted, Isler, Nagel, Nash, Papo, Purvis, Sanderson, Schmidt, Sun, Topcu, Weemaes, Wellman
Senators Absent: Ding (excused), Jorsch, McLean, Morcom, Nelson, Smith,
Ex-Officio Members Present: President David Eisler, Interim Vice President Academic Affair Daniel Burcham
Ex-Officio Members Absent: Student Government President Amber Balmer
Guests: Don Flickinger, Ellen Haneline, David Nicol, Leonard Johnson, Grant Snider, Michael Terry, Enid Carlson-Nagel

- III. **Approval of the Minutes – April 22, 2008 Session A minutes, Senator Papo, with support from Senator Haneline, moved to approve as written. Senator Jewett** expressed concern that the amendment to Item 7A, New Business, stating it may not be written correctly. **Motion to table until clarification approved.**

Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2008 Session B minutes, Senator Jewett, with support from Senator Alspach, moved to approve as written. Motion carried.

- IV. **Open Forum – Senator Nagel** stated that recent studies show inequity between males and females salaries and asked if those inequities exist at our university. He also stated that he hopes that the administration examines gender inequity here.

- V. **Reports**

President Griffin had no report.

Vice President Berghoef reported that Senate Committee forms are available at the Senate webpage and urged Senators to complete and return the forms by September 12, 08. He also reported that he met with FSU Student Government and urged their participation on committees that have seats for students. One hindrance is the 11 o'clock hour, as many student organizations hold meetings at the hour also. Vice President Berghoef reported that he will be meeting with committee chairs in October to review minute forms, criteria for selection and to answer any questions that they may have.

Secretary Ngoh had no report.

- VI. **Committee Reports**

Leonard Johnson, UCC Chair, reported that one proposal was on the agenda for approval and that the monthly report had been emailed to all. He is awaiting appointments for the Colleges of Technology and Optometry. He stated that this semester, the UCC will

be meeting on Thursdays at 10 a.m. and asked that proposals be in the Senate Office no later than Monday afternoon at 4 p.m. for inclusion on the agenda for that week.

President Griffin asked to amend the agenda to include a report from Douglas Haneline, Chair, Academic Program Review Committee.

Dr. Haneline reported that the Vice President for Academic Affairs reports back to the Senate on the recommendations of the Academic Program Review Council and that the VPAA's Office is in the process of preparing that report. It will be posted at the Academic Program Review webpage and distributed as soon as possible. He also reported that the APRC has begun its cycle and is currently reviewing reports.

VII. New Business

Arts Management Minor Termination – Senator Alspach, with support from Senator Haneline moved to support the termination of the program. Following a brief discussion, President Griffin called the question, motion carried.

Academic Plan, Institutional Strategic Plan Council – Michael Cron, committee chair, reported that the Council would be meeting later in the week and that the proposal would be voted on at the October meeting of the Senate. If you would like to see changes or have suggestions, please send them right away.

VIII. Announcements

President Eisler reported that nothing is happening at this time with the Optometry Building project. He reported that the State budget is not yet done, but perhaps the energy bill would be finished this week. He also stated that the transportation budget is not yet complete and that once this is done, they will do capital budget. He reminded us that it is an election year, but only in the House of Representatives. Dr. Eisler reported that enrollment is flat in Big Rapids but there is significant growth in the College of Allied Health, which is one of the largest in the university. He also reported that the Faculty Association and the administration are establishing guidelines for better communications and that he has asked the Deans to arrange college meetings to discuss this issue. He reported that students' behavior is changing, more students are staying on campus over the weekends and he is hopeful that various groups and organizations will plan more entertainment on weekends. He stated that over Labor Day weekend we served 1200 meals. Dr. Eisler encouraged Senators to come up with academic opportunities for students. He thanked Senators for their work and welcomed them back to campus.

Senator Sun asked for suggestions on activities. **Dr. Eisler** reported that on Sept. 13, Student Government will be sponsoring a Blues BBQ at 4 p.m. They will be using money raised to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of our student, Charles Peirce, who passed away unexpectedly last year. **Dr. Eisler** reported that Diane Griffin, FSU's Vista Program person arranged for a "Dump and Run" at Ferris. Students leave many usable items behind and he is happy to report that items were distributed to local food pantries, shelters, and needy families with the help of many volunteers. He also reported that Eagle Boys Village will be getting 60 bicycles as a result of Ms. Griffin's efforts. **Dr. Eisler** updated us briefly on current searches. University Advancement and Marketing have narrowed their selection to three candidates, the VP for Administration and Finance was posted in August, and the Provost posting will be out before the end of the month.

Interim Vice President Burcham reported that Deans are smiling as funds are being distributed. The University is trying to keep pace with and enhance on-line education through new hardware, software and with additional personnel. The Higher Learning Commission report is moving along nicely. Dr. Burcham reported that students seem to be more engaged in campus activities. Dr. Burcham also reported that the College of

Technology has proposed a name change to the College of Engineering Technology and that the College of Education and Human Services is proposing the addition of a Doctoral program. He thanked Senators and Deans for their support.

President Griffin reported that the Senate Executive committee will be meeting on the Tuesday following the regular Senate meeting at 8:30 a.m. If you have issues or items, please forward them to the Senate Office so that they may be added to the agenda. Dr. Griffin advised Senators that the American Democracy Project will be subsidizing student tickets for David Boaz, Vice President of the Cato Institute, who will lecture in Williams Auditorium on Friday, September 12, 2008, at 7 p.m.

IX. Open Forum

Senator Nagel complimented Williams Auditorium manager Michael Terry on the programming for the academic year. He also stated that he noticed no information in the Grand Rapids Press regarding this programming. He hopes that more will be done to inform the public on what is going in the University, for example in the Grand Rapids press and other media. He also stated, regarding a series of proposed college meetings between the administration and the faculty to discuss improved communications that the Union and administration working with the deans and the VPAA gives him a very uneasy feeling and he hopes that this is the right direction.

Senator Papo stated that he feels that confrontational meetings don't work and he hopes that this effort is a step in the right direction and a good sign of willingness to work together on issues. **Senator Papo** asked if there would be a report on how changes in the ACT scores have affected enrollment and also inquired if we were done ratcheting the score up. **Interim VPAA Burcham said that he didn't have much to report on the issue. He said that raising admission standards might not make much of a difference;** approximately 30 students would be affected. Dr. Eisler reported that retention rate seems to be good and that we should have better graduation rates as a result.

Senator Schmidt stated that at one time there was a committee (the Admissions Standards Committee) and asked if they were still organized. He also requested that Interim VPAA Burcham provide a report to the Senate by this group or others regarding the status of the increased admissions standards versus student affects. He pointed out that there are more effects from the increased enrollment standards than just retention. It would be expected that the increased standards would have an effect on classroom performance, graduation rates, campus involvement, among others.

Senator Hanna congratulated the Dean of the College of Allied Health for the increased enrollment. He also stated that now is the time to look at a bicameral structure for the Academic Senate.

Senator Alspach reported that she attended a presentation by Dr. David Pilgrim recently, that it was excellent. She informed Senators that Dr. Pilgrim will be the Constitution Day speaker. Dr. Alspach encouraged Senators to ask their students to attend the Constitution Day presentation.

Interim VPAA Burcham thanked Senator Liszewski for his work on Social Norming.

Other announcements are: there will be a constitution week speaker in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium, one way to engage students is through the United Way, the Political Engagement Project has a calendar full of activities available at the PEP website, and please try to support the Relay for Life from 9 a.m. Saturday till 9 a.m. Sunday.

X. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m.

Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

Richard Griffin, President