

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

I. **Call to Order:** **President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. **Attendance**

Officers Present: President Richard Griffin, Secretary William Papo, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa

Officers Absent:

Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Bandstra, A., Bandstra, J., Beistle, Berghoef, Carter, Cline, Cron, Dakkuri, Danley, Drake, Hancock, Haneline, Hanna, Hettiarachchy, Jewett, Karafa, Kavanaugh, Klatt, Klope, Kouider, Liszewski, McMartin, Nelson, Potter, Purvis, Sanderson, Sun, Taylor, Thomas, Tymes, Watson, Weemaes

Senators Absent: Borst, Nagel, Purvis (excused), Schmidt, Van De Mark

Ex-Officio Members Present: President David Eisler, VPAA Michael Harris

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Elizabeth Schmidt

Guests: Leonard Johnson, Tom Oldfield, Roberta Teahan, Ron Mehringer, Richard Cochran, David Nicol,

III. **Approval of the November 7, and November 14, 2006 Minutes** – Motion by **Senator Jewett**, with support from **Senator Haneline**, to approve the minutes with the following corrections: November 7 minutes, Item VII, Dr. Eisler's comment on Legislative Day is March 28, 2007, and Item VIII, Senator McMartin's name spelling corrected. Motion carried.

IV. **Open Forum – No Comments**

V. **Reports**

President Griffin had no report.

Dr. Thapa, Senate Vice President, reported that the Senate Executive Committee met and appointed members to the Institutional Strategic Planning Council. Members of the council are: Anthony Baker, Helen Woodman, Melinda McMartin, Paul Jackson, Kim Hancock, Michael Cron, Virginia Hines, Ron Mehringer, and Mark Fabbri. **Dr. Michael Cron** has agreed to serve as the Chair of this Council. **Senator Tom Liszewski** has agreed to serve as the Senate Election Committee Chair.

VI. **Committee Reports**

University Curriculum Committee – UCC Chair Leonard Johnson told Senators that the UCC has reviewed fourteen proposals with minor changes. His report is Attachment A of these minutes.

VII. **New Business**

Senator Jewett moved, with support from Senator Danley, that Executive Committee meeting minutes be recorded and provided to the Senate body for review at our regular meetings. Following discussion, it was the consensus that the Senate Executive Committee minutes will be posted on the Senate Executive Committee webpage for all to view. **Senator Jewett, with support from Senator Danley withdrew the motion.**

VII. **Announcements**

FSU President David Eisler reported that the search for a Chief Diversity Officer will begin very soon. He will announce later the members of the search committee. He invited Senators to share stories of our student's struggles and achievements, as he would like to share a few of them at commencement on December 15. He will again be hosting Pancake Day for students on December 12, volunteer servers are welcome. He thanked Senators for their work with our students. **Senator Papo** asked if Dr. Eisler had any info to share from the Commission on the Future, Dr. Eisler stated that is was held in conjunction with the Gala to bring alumni and potential donors together for gathering ideas and perceptions externally.

Michael Harris, Vice President for Academic Affairs announced that on Jan. 26, 07, author John Tag will be the keynote speaker for the Learning Institute. The Higher Learning Commission has contacted us regarding a report to be written on the quality of off-campus sites. Dr. Roberta Teahan, UCEL, will author the report that will be sent to the Senate for review. He is currently reviewing the recommendations of the Academic Program Review Council. He thanked the council for their work and will be responding to their recommendations. On February 16, 07, there will be a university-wide Assessment Fair. Each college is organizing its own fair. Three of five accreditation visits are complete (Legal Studies, PGM and Automotive); Printing and Nursing will have visits later in the year. Recommendations sent to the Dean's Council for review by the Graduate and Professional Council is very near completion. The construction timetable for the IRC Building is moving along nicely, please visit the website to see floor plans and other information. The Political Action Project is going very well, with approximately 25 classes involved in Spring semester.

Senate President Griffin announced that Vice President Thapa will be running the January 07 meeting, as he will be out of the state for that meeting, presenting the FSU Report on PEP.

VIII. Open Forum

Senator Dakkuri stated that he hoped the creation of a Diversity Officer will help enhance equity across campus.

Senator Danley questioned the creation of such a position when there are faculty positions which are not filled. He also stated that the voters of Michigan decided in November that affirmative action was not needed in this state.

Dr. Eisler stated that he respects that opinion, however, the position will be filled, and we will examine what we do to retain students, faculty and staff.

Senator Haneline asked if the Higher Learning Commission was going to look at E-learning also. Dr. Harris reported that they are concerned with off-campus sites only.

IX. Adjournment – 10:40 a.m.

William Papo, Secretary

Richard Griffin, President