



PRESS RELEASES: Trustees Approve Zero-Percent Increase in Room and Board, Re-Elect Officers

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included below are press releases from today's Nov. 4 Ferris State University Board of Trustees meetings in Grand Rapids at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Any questions about these press releases can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services. I can best be reached by email as I will be on travel this afternoon and evening.

For Immediate Release
Nov. 4, 2011

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Trustees Approve Zero-Percent Increase in Room and Board

GRAND RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Board of Trustees approved an administration recommendation of a zero-percent increase in room and board for students for the 2012-13 academic year at its regular meeting on Friday, Nov. 4 inside the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

University officials recommended no increase in room and board as students and families begin to make college decisions about the Fall 2012 Semester. One important reason for the zero-percent increase is to keep a Ferris education affordable for students and families. Jerry Scoby, vice president for Administration and Finance, notes that Ferris is a university of opportunity. He is proud that the university has managed to make this recommendation at a time when it has been able to improve the quality of housing facilities on campus for students, yet also contain costs.

“Ferris has worked to create a more attractive living experience for its students who are living on campus with the renovated Rock Café dining center, the renovation of South Campus residence halls and the enhancement of wireless networks in our residence halls,” said Jon Shaffer, director of Housing and Residence Life. “We are doing all this at a time when we are holding rates the same for students and families.”

The Ferris room and board rate of \$8,744 is based on pricing for the most popular plan choice for Ferris students. The university plans to continue to provide its students with quality and flexibility in housing and dining options, as well as maintain and enhance facilities.

“The university’s goal is to set these rates as low as possible to minimize the cost of attendance for our students and to better position the rates with the other public universities in Michigan,” Scoby said.

In other meeting news, trustees approved:

- the 2011-12 general fund operating budget of \$184.5 million, which includes \$41.3 million in state appropriations.
- a 2013 capital outlay project request seeking support to build a new facility for the College of Education and Human Services in accordance with the campus master plan. The College of Education and Human Services is currently housed in Bishop Hall, a renovated residence hall that is inadequate for instruction and forces classes to be distributed to other buildings around campus.
- the demolition of Carlisle and Masselink halls on the Big Rapids campus. The university is demolishing the two halls because they no longer meet the programmatic and functional expectations of students. The plan is to complete the demolition and related utility work by August 2012. The space will provide additional commuter parking and serve the parking needs of the renovated university center.
- President David L. Eisler's recommendation that the university enter into a professional services contract for search assistance to fill three vacant dean positions;
- approved authorization for Vice President of Administration and Finance Jerry Scoby or his designee to proceed with the retention of necessary professional and other services required to conduct a transportation study associated with plans to renovate the Rankin Center, including the negotiation of and entering into contracts, upon legal review in accordance with Board policy;
- authorization for President Eisler, or his designee, to accept the grant award through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth on behalf of the trustees, in the amount of \$208,838. The president or his designee is authorized to administer the grant in accordance with approved Board policy;
- contract amendments to Ferris-authorized charter school academies that include adding another address for Lighthouse Academy, in Kentwood, to accommodate extra students and to offer pre-kindergarten at Pierre Toussaint Academy, in Detroit; and
- the closure of the Associate of Applied Science degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology. The Society of Nuclear Medicine, as well as the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology, supports the recommendation to require a Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology by 2015. To align Ferris' program with this mandate, the university implemented or reactivated its BS degree in 2008 and now plans to eliminate the associate degree. All associate degree-seeking students within the Nuclear Medicine Technology program have earned their Associate of Applied Science degree, and students began to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology in May 2011.

In related BOT news, trustees:

- received, at the Oct. 14 meeting of the Finance Committee, the external auditors' report from Plante Moran which assessed Ferris State University its highest level of assurance, a "clean, unqualified opinion."

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Ferris Board of Trustees Re-Elects Officers

GRAND RAPIDS – At its regular meeting held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on Friday, Nov. 4, the Ferris State University Board of Trustees re-elected Ronald E. Snead of Greenville, as chair; Sueann L. Walz of Big Rapids, as vice chair; and George J. Menoutes of Flint, as secretary, for leadership terms running through its November 2012 meeting.

"I am very gratified by the trust of my fellow board members," Snead said. "Our goal is to be as focused as possible in support of Ferris State University and its administration. I want the board to be proactive and to become as effective as we can be by benchmarking against others boards throughout the country."

Snead is a sales and marketing consultant whose term on the board runs through Dec. 31, 2012. Walz is assistant vice president and branch manager of Independent Bank West whose term on the board runs through Dec. 31, 2014. Menoutes is a retired pharmacist and civic leader whose term on the board runs through Dec. 31, 2012.

More information about the board and full biographies of its members are available at www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/Trustees.

- 30 -

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