

**From:** [Sandy C. Gholston](#)  
**To:** [Archive](#); [Shelly L. Armstrong](#)  
**Subject:** Ferris State University Board of Trustees  
**Date:** 04/09/2010 05:03 PM  
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Good afternoon,

Attached are four news releases related to Ferris State University's Board of Trustees meeting which took place on Friday April 9 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Big Rapids, Mich. The four news releases cover a wide variety of topics discussed as part of this regular meeting of the board of trustees.

Here are brief outlines of the news releases contained in this e-mail.

### **Ferris Trustees Approve New HVAC System for Arts and Sciences Building**

This is a story from The Ferris State University's Board of Trustees today (April 9). This story focuses on the approved installation of a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system for the Arts and Sciences Complex and air conditioning for G. Mennen Williams Auditorium in the Starr Building which will require some summer classes to be relocated to other academic buildings.

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This is a story from Ferris State University's Board of Trustees meeting today (April 9). Ferris State University's Chief Diversity Officer David Pilgrim presented an annual assessment of progress toward achieving goals outlined in the University's diversity plan to the Board.

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Here are the attachments of the stories in Microsoft Word format and below. Anyone with questions can contact Sandy Gholston in News Services.



News Services Ferris Trustees Approve Honorary Degrees, Faculty Sabbaticals.doc



News Services Ferris Trustees Endorse Five New Degree Programs.doc



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For Immediate Release  
April 9, 2010

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### **Ferris Trustees Approve Honorary Degrees, Faculty Sabbaticals**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Board of Trustees today (April 9) approved awarding honorary doctoral degrees during May commencement to a well-known furniture design magazine publisher and a statewide financial aid leader. They also granted sabbatical and Fulbright Scholar leaves to 14 faculty.

Joseph F. Carroll, publisher of *Furniture Today*, the most recognized and respected trade publication in the residential furnishings industry, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Arts degree. Carroll is widely known and respected among Kendall College of Art and Design alumni in the North Carolina area and is a strong community leader, serving as chair of High Point University’s Home Furnishings Advisory Board, president of Triad Council for International Visitors and president of Greensboro Sister Cities.

Jennifer Ramsey Wallace, outreach manager for financial aid programs for the Michigan Education Trust, will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service degree. She is known as the “TIP Lady” and has played a significant role in helping Ferris expand its Tuition Incentive Program, which has doubled from about 300 to more than 700 students in the last two years. Her work includes outreach to more than 100,000 children and parents annually to educate them about the MET and financial aid. She serves on Michigan State University’s College of Social Science and Black Alumni board of directors.

The trustees also approved 12 sabbatical leave requests for the following faculty and projects:

- **College of Arts and Sciences** -- Siddikov Bakhodirzhon, develop computerized Maple interactive math software; J. Randall Groves, co-author a book used in a Popular Culture course; Phillip Middleton, teach in Ireland and study abolition of slavery laws in northwest Africa; Matthew Nikkari, complete articles on American Literature and Pedagogy; Tom Stoffer, integrate English essays, readings and homework assignments into themes; Joseph Tripp, study the influences of students’ mathematics learning experiences;
- **College of Business** -- Susan Jones, conduct research and re-write a direct marketing textbook; Alison Larabel, self-study of interactive design and development and graphic

design studio experience;

- **College of Engineering Technology** -- Larry Langell, training/certification on advanced plastics engineering simulation tool and industrial work experience; John Tomczyk, update editions of three books on refrigeration and air conditioning technology and accompanying CD, DVDs and audio book;

- **College of Education and Human Services** -- Susan Hastings-Bishop, study leading university youth development programs to create a youth development course in Ferris' Recreation Leadership and Management Program; and

- **University College** -- Terry Doyle, write a follow-up textbook on learner-centered teaching.

Marietta Bell-Scriber, Master of Science in Nursing program coordinator, was granted a Fulbright Scholarship sabbatical leave. She is the first Fulbright Scholar from the School of Nursing and the College of Allied Health Sciences and will teach in Cyprus during the 2010-2011 academic year. She hopes to use the knowledge she gains about teaching across cultures to improve the effectiveness and quality of her instruction in the Ferris nursing program.

Another Fulbright Scholar sabbatical leave grantee is Richard W. Griffin, professor of Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, who will lecture during the 2011 Spring Semester at the University of Debrecen in Hungary. He will share his expertise on the United States and Mexico border culture and study the similarities and differences between the borders of the United States and Hungary.

In other action, the board approved the appointment of three new directors to The Ferris Foundation Board. They include Secondary Science Education graduate and Greenville native Mary E. Garvelink of Colorado Springs, co-founder of Commercial Design Engineering in Colorado Springs and Grand Junction, Colo.; alumnus John Engelman II, a Howard City native who is a senior scientist in product development at S.C. Johnson & Co. in Racine, Wis.; and Robert R. Friar of Big Rapids, Ferris Biology professor, Distinguished Teacher recipient, widely published scholar and sought-after expert for media.

The University welcomed its newest member of the board of trustees, Dr. William Lakin, of Clinton Twp., to fill the seat previously held by Patrick LaPine.

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### **Ferris Makes Progress Toward Goals Outlined in Diversity Plan**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University's Chief Diversity Officer David Pilgrim presented an annual assessment of progress toward achieving goals outlined in the University's diversity plan to the Board of Trustees today (April 9).

Pilgrim characterized Ferris as “excellent” in advancing its goal of creating an environment that is positive for diverse populations; “above average” in recruiting, retaining and graduating a diverse student population; and “slightly above average” in creating environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to diverse student populations. Efforts to hire and retain a diverse workforce were rated “below average.”

“We are aggressively recruiting students from racial and ethnic groups,” said Pilgrim, who has served as CDO in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Ferris since January 2007. “Diversity and inclusion-related programming is increasing in frequency and quality, and this programming is, in two words, more diverse.”

The assessment notes that in the past year, enrollments by African Americans increased 5.3 percent; Hispanics, 14.3 percent; and Native Americans, 15.7 percent. Pilgrim interprets these numbers as indicators that “the Ferris student body is more diverse today than it was in 2006.”

The creation of the International Center and the positive work of the Tuition Incentive Program office and Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning were cited by Pilgrim as points of pride for the University in its efforts to strengthen diversity among the student body.

The report calls attention to 93 FSU courses that are classified as “Global Consciousness Courses,” and 82 that are categorized as “Race, Ethnicity and/or Gender Courses.” However, it was recommended that a diversity audit of the content of general education courses be conducted and support provided for the FCTL’s Inclusive Classroom Initiative which is designed to strengthen the mission of the diversity plan in Ferris classrooms.

The University’s ability to hire and retain a diverse workforce continues to be a concern, according to Pilgrim. “Ferris is not doing as well as its peer institutions in this area, and we must continue to make this a top University priority.”

Suggestions for diversifying the Ferris workforce include creating a University-wide taskforce, co-chaired by Pilgrim and Fritz Erickson, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, to address this issue; identifying strategies to position Ferris as a welcoming environment; working with search committees to create larger applicant pools; and developing an “inclusion advocates” training program for employees.

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### **Ferris Trustees Endorse Five New Degree Programs**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University’s Board of Trustees today (April 9) approved four new bachelor’s degrees in Energy Systems Engineering, Molecular Diagnostics, Allied Health and Fashion Studies and an associate degree in Dietary Food Service Management. All degrees will be offered beginning in Fall 2010.

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science degree in Energy Systems Engineering will help fill a demand for engineers trained in both traditional and alternative/renewable energy fields. Students have the option of specializing in Building Energy Systems, Alternative Energy Systems or Energy Generation and Distribution Systems.

“The launch of this new degree program will significantly impact career opportunities for our graduates who will meet a global need for engineers who can develop and implement alternative/renewable energies and energy efficiency related technologies in buildings and products,” said Fritz Erickson, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Ferris also will become the only university in Michigan to offer a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Diagnostics degree that will meet national and regional demands for certified, professionally educated and technically competent people to work in the field of genetics testing.

“This new degree will enable Ferris to become a recognized leader in providing clinical laboratory education and will particularly fill a need for this type of training in West Michigan,” said Erickson.

Students will be required to take classes on the Big Rapids campus during their first three years and then complete their fourth year of classes and a clinical internship at FSU-Grand Rapids.

“The growth of personalized medicine, which allows an individual to have a panel of genetic tests performed to determine predisposition to disease, has increased the demand for practitioners with the skill set provided by this degree,” said Erickson.

Associate degree graduates in various allied health professions, who until now had no discipline-specific bachelor’s degree available to them, have access to a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health degree program offered on and off campus and online. The curriculum is designed as a “+2” degree, allowing students to transfer 60 credits of professional coursework into the degree program.

Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University is partnering with The New School for Design (“Parsons”) in New York City to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Studies degree.

The degree was developed in response to student demand and requires students to complete three years of coursework at Kendall before transferring to Parsons for their last year of studies where they will complete their fashion design courses. Students will be awarded a BFA in Fashion Studies from Kendall after transferring their Parsons credits to Kendall.

“The partnership with Parsons is a win-win for us and our students,” said Oliver Evans, Kendall president and vice chancellor. “Students will now be able to combine their strong knowledge of drawing and design they acquire at Kendall with a direct understanding of and experience of the world of fashion design they will acquire at Parsons. They will be exposed to fashion design experts who will teach them how fashion is created, branded and sold and, in the process, develop a network of connections within the fashion world.”

Evans said a national search will be conducted to hire a chair of Fashion Studies, but other than that, existing resources will be used to create the program.

An Associate in Applied Science in Dietary Food Service Management degree will meet a growing demand for employees with dietetic and nutritional training and certification.

The interdisciplinary program, developed by the colleges of Business and Allied Health Sciences, will prepare graduates to run the food service operation with acute and long-term care facilities and provide patient services under the supervision of a registered dietician. Coursework covers basic nutrition, facilities design, menu planning, basic food production, sanitation procedures, purchasing, human resources, cost control, nutrition assessment and diet therapy, as well as 400 hours of supervised clinical experience. Graduates will be eligible and prepared to take the certification exam become a certified dietary manager through the Dietary Managers Association.

In other business, the Board of Trustees approved the following:

- The closure of the Bachelor of Science in Management degree addresses the issue that there is not a significant difference between the management and the business administration bachelor's degrees. The inclusion of management courses in the business administration degree will enrich this degree offering for all students;
- A Student Fees Committee-endorsed tuition rate of \$530 per credit hour for the new Doctorate in Community College Leadership which will be offered beginning this summer;
- Receipt of a \$173,571 American Councils for International Education Grant for the *Journey to Jordan* six-week summer program for high school students who will study Arabic at the Qasid Institute as part of a U.S. State Department initiative to increase the number of critical language speakers in the United States;
- The extension of contracts for two FSU-authorized charter schools, including Marshall Academy in Marshall (K-12) and Northridge Academy in Flint (K-8) through June 20, 2015; and the reappointment of 22 board of directors to 16 Ferris charter school academies throughout Michigan.

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The existing HVAC system for the Arts and Sciences Complex has become unreliable making it difficult to maintain a consistent level of comfort for occupants, said Mike Hughes,



associate vice president for Physical Plant.

Clark Construction of Lansing is construction manager and Progressive AE of Grand Rapids, architectural engineer for the project.

“We have been working very closely with College of Arts and Sciences representatives to minimize disruption to faculty, staff and students. We hope to have some of the work completed over the summer with testing and quality control measures to follow,” Hughes said.

The Starr Building will be closed for classes all summer, and the Science Building will be closed after June 30. The Arts and Sciences Complex will be ready for fall semester kick-off on Aug. 23. All summer course offerings in the College of Arts and Sciences had already been relocated across the campus prior to student registration for summer semester. The Arts and Sciences Commons will remain open during the project.

Matthew Klein, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said, "The college worked closely with the contractors and the Physical Plant to expedite the remodeling project so that only summer courses would need to be relocated in order to decrease any confusion for students. We are pleased that the Board of Trustees approved this project to provide a better learning environment for our students and working environment for our faculty and staff. The new system will also allow us to cool our spaces more efficiently and to utilize Williams Auditorium year-round."

In other business, the trustees approved:

- An agreement between Ferris and Christman Capital Investment Group allowing Christman to proceed with predevelopment activities for the anticipated renovation of the Grand Rapids Federal Building for use by Kendall College of Art and Design;
- Naming the three East Campus Suites buildings currently being constructed: Pine Valley (Building 1 along Ives Avenue); Oak View (Building 2 at the corner of Ives Avenue and Damascus Road); and Maple Grove (Building 3 closest to St. Paul Catholic Campus Parish on Damascus Road). A seven-member committee comprised of students, faculty and staff, reviewed submissions entered in a contest by current students and alumni. The two students submitting the winning entries have first choice of which East Campus Suites they wish to occupy next fall and get their first month's rent free;
- Extending the Barnes and Noble bookstore contract, which ends April 15 after a second five-year term, for another 15 months through July 15, 2011 for operations on the main campus in Big Rapids and Kendall College of Art and Design. This will allow more time to assess planning goals for the potential remodeling of the Rankin Student Center and to create a contract end date that is more conducive to a potential change in firms should that occur;
- Pursuing a security services contract for Kendall adding emergency management and first-aid training to the qualifications security officers must have;
- Completing summer renovations at Kendall's facilities at Division and Ionia streets to include painting, installing new carpet, refurbishing stairs, adding library shelving and replacing a cooling tower and air handler and controls;

- Entering into a revised contract expanding the duties of the Michigan State University clinical pharmacist at Sparrow Family Practice Clinic in Lansing, a training site for Ferris Doctor of Pharmacy students in collaboration with MSU's Family Practice Medical Residents. FSU and MSU pharmacy faculty have shared clinical responsibilities in the past, but now the MSU pharmacist will assume all clinic duties after the recent resignation of the FSU faculty member; and

Pursuing bids for a University-wide, state-of-the-art Web Content Management System that will replace a decade-old system that cannot meet internal and external demands and expectations and will allow for a more integrated approach to managing the Web site and marketing the University.



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