

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
April 7, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

I. Call to Order: **President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Attendance:

Officers Present: President Richard Griffin, Secretary Lucy Ngoh

Officers Absent: Vice-President Michael Berghoef (excused), Past President Dakkuri

Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Brandy, Drake, Goosen, Haneline, Hanna, D., Hanna, H., Hansen, Isler, Jewett, Jorsch, Klatt, Kouider, Lashaway-Bokina, Liszewski, Lovsted, Nagel, Nash, Nelson, Purvis, Sanderson, Schmidt, Smith, Sun, Thapa, Weemaes

Senators Absent: Alspach (excused), Beistle (excused), Berghoef (excused), Cline (excused), Cron (excused), DeKoster, Ding (excused), McLean, Morcom, Topcu, Papo (excused), Wellman

Ex-Officio Members Present: President David Eisler, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs Daniel Burcham, Student Government President Amber Balmer

Ex-Officio Members Absent: None

Guests: Don Flickinger, Leonard Johnson, Tom Oldfield, Keith Cripe

III. Approval of the Minutes – March 3, 2009 minutes – Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Purvis, moved to approve with the following correction: page 2, first paragraph, line 5, change “it” to “they”. Motion carried.

IV. Open Forum

Senator Nagel suggested that given the state of the economy, perhaps all Ferris State employees might consider forgoing their pay raises next year. Since most are in line for a three (3) percent raise, giving back only one (1) percent would help the situation.

Senator Haneline addressed the issue of student enrollment in online courses. He stated that as advisors have incomplete information in situations where we assign our students a "reasonable" full-time load, because we cannot control how much they work or whether they are taking credits at other institutions, student enrollment in online courses might become a problem. **Senator Sun** commented that perhaps better advising would help in this situation.

V. Reports

President Griffin had no report at this time and stated that **Vice President Berghoef** is presenting at a conference this morning and will combine his report for today's meeting into the report of April 28, 2009.

Secretary Ngoh had no report at this time.

Senate Election Chair Liszewski reported that the server used for elections would be replaced during the summer. He told Senators that CJ LeTourneau, FSU CIS senior, worked a total of 26 hours on election web pages and materials and that TAC provided operators for 2 days to support faculty members wishing to place their ballot.

VI. Committee Reports

A. University Curriculum Committee - Leonard Johnson, UCC Chair - Dr. Johnson provided Senators with a list of proposals reviewed and approved since the March meeting (Attachment A). He also told Senators there will be two items for consideration at the next Senate meeting, one will be used for tracking Form B's and the other will be a revision of

Form A to include information about programs seeking external accreditation. This was in response to suggestions made by Senator Jewett.

- B. Academic Program Review/TracDat – Senator Haneline** told the Senate that during the spring semester APRC had met several times, once with NuVentive consultant Paul DeSante, to discuss how to use TracDat to make APR more efficient and less time-intensive. During the summer Dr. Haneline will devise a plan to do so.

VII. New Business

- A. New Minor – Fleet Management – Motion by Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Sanderson, to approve the new minor.** Senator Smith from the College of Business, and Keith Cripe, College of Engineering Technology were in attendance to respond to concerns and questions. Following a short discussion, **motion carried.**
- B. New Certificate – Fleet Management – Motion by Senator Nagel, with support from Senator Sanderson, to approve the new certificate.** Following a short discussion, **motion carried.**

VIII. Announcements

President Eisler reported that his last college meeting was held on Monday. He told Senators that all suggestions for budget reductions have been combined into a single, uncensored document. Dr. Eisler told Senators that SPARC would be meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, in the Founder's Room at 3 p.m. He told Senators there are five categories for saving money. They are: 1) eliminations, 2) reductions, 3) effectiveness, 4) good ideas and 5) revenue generation. Deans and Vice Presidents will look at an additional two (2) percent reduction, which will generate approximately 2.5 million dollars. President Eisler commented that the House Appropriations Subcommittee would probably introduce a three (3) percent cut which equals 1.6 million base reduction of our budget. He also told Senators that the state can only reduce our level of funding to the 2006 level and he told Senators that if we raise tuition five (5) percent, we could then use economic stimulus money to reimburse students. He expressed great concern for students that are part way through college. President Eisler stated that they are working on a program named "Ferris Cares" whereby grant or scholarship funds for students whose financial status changed after they completed their FASFA. It is intended to be used as a sort of bridge for students until Financial Aid forms can be revised. Lastly, he told Senators that the ground breaking ceremony for the Michigan College of Optometry building will be on May 8, at 10:30 a.m. Student Government President Amber Balmer asked President Eisler what the chances of a tuition increase were and if there is an increase, how much does he estimate that increase would be. He responded by saying that the University will need to absorb 6.8 million, and that the State of Michigan has only ten (10) percent invested in students, one (1) percent to the university and an additional nine (9) percent to Financial Aid, which ranks Michigan the third (3rd) lowest in the United States. **Senator Schmidt** asked President Eisler if anyone has looked at leaving the state system and going private. **Senator Nash** thanked Dr. Eisler for visiting the individual colleges personally. President Eisler reported that the university is optimistic that the 300 mile radius is working.

Interim Vice President Burcham told Senators he was impressed by the amount of research that is going on at the university, and that he is also impressed by the amount of community service that faculty, staff and students are engage in. RSO's also provide community service. "The Big Event" will take place on Saturday, April 18. There are currently more than 80 homes in the area that will be repaired by more than 500 students who will be volunteering their time. Dr. Burcham feels that we must hold a core of Big Rapids students.

President Griffin reminded Senators of the final Senate meeting on April 28, beginning at 10:00 a.m. for a one hour business meeting. At 11:00 a.m. the 2009-2010 Senate will be seated, with the first order of business being the election of officers for the coming academic year.

Open Forum

Senator Schmidt said that Sigma Lambda Chi, the international honor society for construction students, selected Ferris State's Chapter - Omicron II - as recipients of their highest honor, the International Outstanding Chapter. The award was presented at the Sigma Lambda Chi annual meeting held at the University of Florida last week. Senator Schmidt and Professor Ed Brayton serve as co-advisors for the chapter. The students were honored for their overall excellence in seven individual categories and recognized for their outstanding support of our community.

Student Government President Amber Balmer reported that seven (7) applications have been received for a scholarship sponsored by Student Government. She reminded Senators that ***Pancakes with the President*** is scheduled for May 4, 2009, from 11 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. in the Westview Dining Center.

President Griffin reported that the recently established General Education Task Force had its first meeting.

IX. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 11:21 a.m.

Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

Richard Griffin, President