

**Ferris State University**  
**Special Academic Senate Meeting**  
 Higher Learning Commission Site Visiting Team

**April 19, 2011**  
**West Campus Community Center**

**Minutes**

I.	There were no Action Items at the Special Academic Senate meeting.
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**Attendance**

Senators attending	Alspach, Berghoef, Boncher, Brandly, Colley, Compton, Cook, Fox, Gillespie, Haneline, Hanna, Heaphy, Isler, Jewett, Joyce, Lashaway-Bokina, Liszewski, Lukusa-Barnett, Luplow, Maike, Marion, Nash, Rewers, Sanderson, Skrocki, Taylor, Thapa, Wagenheim
Senators absent with cause	Drake, Griffin, Klatt, Nagel
Senators absent	Abbasabadi, Dakkuri, Daughterty, McNulty, Prakasam, Reynolds, Sun
Ex Officio and Guests	Erickson, Flickinger, Cron

**Narrative**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

President Haneline announced that the last meeting of the 2010-2011 Academic Senate will be April 26 at 10:00 a.m. The 2011-2012 Academic Senate will convene at 11:00 a.m.

President Haneline introduced the two Higher Learning Commission Visiting Team members who would conduct the rest of the meeting: Mary Ellen Edwards, Team Chair (University of Toledo) and Douglas N. McMillan (Southeastern Oklahoma State University).

II.	Questions posed by the Team included the following:	
	A.	Describe the Academic Senate.
	B.	Describe the curricular process; especially how often Academic Affairs rejects a recommendation from the Academic Senate.
	C.	Describe the program review process; especially how often a program is recommended for closure.
		1. To what degree are program review and program assessment linked?
		2. Is a standard set of data used for program review? Explain how TracDat is used.
		3. How is the process influenced by the presence of an outside accrediting body?
		4. Dr. McMillan shared that the team had observed more development in the assessment of General Education than of individual programs. He noted that this discrepancy is not unusual among HLC-accredited institutions. He also distinguished programs with accrediting bodies as generally more advanced in assessment processes. He took opportunity to advise us that higher education institutions would be feeling more pressure from the federal level to provide more transparency and accountability; hence, the Higher Learning Commission's challenge to raise standards higher.
III.	Open Forum	
	A.	There was discussion of shared governance at Ferris.
	B.	Dr. Edwards inquired about the relationship between the Academic Senate and the Ferris Faculty Association.
	C.	Dr. Edwards inquired about processes for initiating programs outside of the established curricular process, focusing on the Doctorate in Community College Leadership.

April 30, 2011

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Alspach  
Secretary

Douglas Haneline  
President

April 30, 2011