

DRAFT

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
March 1, 2011
West Campus Community Center**

Minutes

I.	Action Items	
	A.	The minutes of February 1, 2011 were approved without objection. (Jewett, Brandy)
	B.	The Senate voted unanimously to revise the Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene . (Alspach, Daugherty)
	C.	After discussion, the Senate voted to close the Associate Degree in Ornamental Horticulture Technology. (Abbasabadi, Nagel)
	D.	With several abstentions, the Senate voted to approve an Undergraduate Project Management Certificate. (Heaphy, Nagel)

Attendance

Senators attending	Abbasabadi, Alspach, Berghoef, Bokina-Lashaway, Brandy, Colley, Compton, Cook, Dakkuri, Daugherty, Drake, Fox, Gillespie, Haneline, Hanna, Heaphy, Isler, Jewett, Joyce, Klatt, Liszewski, Lukusa Barnett, Maike, Marion, McNulty, Nagel, Nash, Prakasam, Rewers, Reynolds, Sanderson, Skrocki, Sun, Taylor, Thapa, Wagenheim
Senators absent with cause	Boncher, Griffin, Luplow
Ex Officio and Guests	Erickson, Teahen, Flickinger, Cron, Hill, Johnston, McKean, Nicol, L. Johnson (UCC), F. Heck (GETF), D. Balmer (Student Government), S. Balkema (Higher Learning Commission team), C. Quigley, L. Schult, B. Ciamitaro, K. Beistle, J. Urbanik, K. Strasser

See the Narrative for Reports and Announcements.

Narrative

The meeting was called to order at 10:00

The Minutes of the January 11, 2011 were approved without objection.

Regarding discussion of assessment tools, Dean Hill offered to provide lists of students completing the IDEA form to instructors before grades close at the end of the semester. There is no mechanism for making names available to instructors of students completing online SAI forms before grades close.

II.	Open Forum: the Senate offered "get well wishes" to Dave Winger.	
III.	Reports	
	A.	President Haneline had no report at this time.
	B.	Vice President Berghoef reported that the Student Government appreciates members of the Senate Executive Committee attending their meetings. He asked Senators to encourage students to consider running for election to the Student Government. He reported that he had met with co-chairs Heaphy and Skrocki to discuss the results of the ad hoc Task Force on Senate Committees in preparation for their report later at this meeting.
	C.	Secretary Alspach added to VP Berghoef's observation that Student Government meetings are open to the public and she encouraged Senators to attend and listen to the concerns and activities of the student body. She reminded Senators visiting Student Government that it is a courtesy to speak to the SG President before the meeting to request time to make any

		announcement during the Hearing of the Public period at the beginning of the meeting (similar to our Open Forum).
IV.	Committee Reports	
	A.	Sandy Balkema reported on preparations for the Higher Learning Commission visit. She showed Senators a final printed copy of the report and encouraged them to examine the pdf version posted on the HLC link on the Ferris website, with a special eye to any references to Academic Senate.
		She announced that the names of the visiting team had not been finalized, but the team is beginning to schedule their visit. She reminded Senators that there will be a Senate meeting on April 19 with several members of the team. She said that the HLC steering committee is compiling a list of the kinds of questions visiting teams typically ask so that we can be prepared to respond appropriately.
		She reported that the communications campaign is gearing up and pointed our attention to the “potty posters” highlighting various aspects of the Mission and Core Values and to the postings on MyFSU.
	B.	Leonard Johnson reported the work of the University Curriculum Committee in February, including three proposals on the agenda for today, and answered questions. There was discussion about the proposed Philosophy course in Applied Ethics. Johnson noted that the UCC had received information about 11 new experimental courses. There was discussion about the use of the experimental x90 number to pre-test the viability of new courses. Provost Erickson noted that he depended on faculty reviews to assure the integrity of these experimental courses, but approval of additions to the curriculum would be based on resource availability as well.
	C.	Sens. Heaphy and Skrocki reported for the Task Force reviewing Senate Committees. Sen. Skrocki reviewed the charge given to the ad hoc committee and the process the committee had followed to meet their charge. She acknowledged the members of the committee: David Marion (COB), George Nagel (AS), Roger Daugherty (AHS), Michelle Johnston (AA) and ex-officio Matt Pinter (COB). Sen. Heaphy explained the rubric the committee used to assess Senate committees, showed examples of committee structures within the University and the Academic Senate and previewed the recommendations that would be addressed in New Business. President Haneline thanked the committee for their diligence.
	D.	Don Flickinger reported for the General Education Task Force. The Task Force will hold two Town Hall meetings: March 21 and March 22, to make final inputs to the Outcomes for General Education. The goal is to ask for Senate support at the April 5 meeting. He encouraged Senate participation in the Town Hall process and welcomed feedback at heckf@ferris.edu . Pres. Haneline reminded Senators that the proposed Outcomes will be open for general discussion, but not “wordsmithing” on the floor of the Senate. During the next year, the GETF will address how students can meet the Outcomes through multiple activities, not just coursework. There was general discussion of the Outcomes. Of special concern was that General Education be viewed as the providence of the entire University, not any specific area.
	E.	Danielle Balmer reported from Student Government. She introduced Danielle Shin from Allied Health Sciences who was observing the Academic Senate meeting. She announced the 10 th annual WILL conference on the theme “Breaking Barriers” will be held on March 15 at the Holiday Inn, in collaboration with You Beautiful Black Woman (YBBW). This conference includes keynote speakers from faculty, staff and alumni as well as break-out discussion sessions.

		She reminded Senators that April 9 is the Big Event. Student applications to participate are due March 19. She noted that student volunteers do not have to be members of a Recognized Student Organization to participate.
		She reported that Ferris SG members had attended the state Student Associations of Michigan (SAM) conference. There are plans to bus Ferris students to Lansing on March 24 to show concern about plans to cut state funding to higher education.
	F.	Sen. Sun, chair of the Senate Elections Committee, reported that nominations for Academic Senate are due Friday. He expressed concern that some colleges lacked sufficient candidates for the open positions available, and encouraged Senators to recruit.
	G.	Sen. Cook and John Urbanik, Chief Technology Officer, reported from the EMAT (E-Learning Management Advisory Team). They noted that there had been low attendance at focus group sessions held by this committee in February. Sen. Cook asked to see hands of Senators engaged in fully online or blended course instruction. More than half of the Senators reported.
		Dean Nicol facilitated a brief focus group with the Academic Senate. Several issues were raised.
		While online instruction provides opportunity for some Ferris students to complete their degrees, there is concern about course “caps” and faculty preparation for effective teaching in the boundary-less class environment. A key issue is whether faculty can choose to teach online or are assigned to these classes.
		Urbanik sought guidance about how to provide effective technology support for online instruction. Several issues were raised about availability of technical support and reliability of hardware and software.
V. Old Business		
	A.	Jim Nystrom, chair of the Senate Academic Policy and Standards Committee, proposed that the Senate endorse the Academic Affairs Policy Letter dated February 2010, “Student Complaint Policy”, with recommended changes and after identified concerns are addressed. After lengthy discussion, the Question was called and passed with one dissenting voice (Nagel, Dakkuri). The motion to endorse passed (Dakkuri, Jewett).
		Pres. Haneline answered the question about whether faculty members have a complaint policy by referring the Senator to the “Employee Complaint Policy” managed by the Ferris Faculty Association.
VI. New Business		
	A.	The Senate voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the University Curriculum Committee revise the Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene . (Alspach, Daugherty)
	B.	After discussion, the Senate voted to close the Associate Degree in Ornamental Horticulture Technology. (Abbasabadi, Nagel)
	C.	With several abstentions, the Senate voted to approve an Undergraduate Project Management Certificate. (Heaphy, Nagel)
		In the interest of time, Pres. Haneline moved consideration of the Academic Program Review Council recommendations to the April meeting.
VII. Announcements		
	A.	Provost Erickson reported on the process and progress of the Academic Core Review Team.
		He thanked Pres. Haneline for agreeing to co-lead the committee with Brian Craig, welcomed new member Kim Wilbur and promised that Marilyn Beamish would be posting minutes.
		He promised that the list of “rumors” would be forthcoming.
		He shared his experience meeting with a grants consultant, who complimented the work

		being accomplished at Ferris “in spite of our best efforts to support people doing so.” He encouraged faculty to continue to pursue grants and promised to become more intentional in supporting these pursuits.
VII. Open Forum		
	A.	Sen. Nagel reiterated the call for the General Education Task Force to encourage interdisciplinary and co-curricular opportunities to meet the Outcomes presented.
	B.	Sen. Dakkuri requested that the Senate Executive Committee discuss inviting Bob Loesch to attend meetings to consult on parliamentary issues.
	C.	Leonard Johnson invited Senators to attend the SPARC (Strategic Planning and Resource Council) meeting on March 15 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in West Campus Community Center.
	D.	Sen. Marion encouraged Senators to reply to the EMAT survey.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. (Heaphy, Abbasabadi)		

Sandy Alspach
Secretary

Douglas Haneline
President