



PRESS RELEASES: Ferris State University Board of Trustees Meetings

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included below are TWO press releases highlighting Ferris State University's Board of Trustees meeting from Friday, Feb. 22 in Big Rapids at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center. Among the highlights of the meeting was the trustees' approval of the new Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking for its Kendall College of Art and Design. The second release is in regard to the response of the Board of Trustees to a contract proposal from the Ferris Faculty Association. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.

To read the online version of this story, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2013/february/trustees.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 22, 2013

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Trustees Approve Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking for Kendall

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University's Board of Trustees approved a new Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking for Kendall College of Art and Design on Friday, Feb. 22 at its regular meeting held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center.

David Rosen, president of Kendall, noted the increased popularity of printmaking as an academic program. Kendall currently has 33 students enrolled in the printmaking strand of the Drawing/Printmaking program. No other art school in the country offers printmaking as part of drawing, and Rosen said he believes that the addition of this program is consistent with Kendall's mission of preparing students for professional lives as artists and designers, and in particular, printmaking will aid Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Interior Design, and other KCAD programs.

"In our age, artists hunger for community and printmaking offers a communal experience," Rosen said. "Unlike other printmaking programs, Kendall's printmaking will not sit apart from the other creative disciplines, but it will give energy to and share energy with them. That is the beauty of Kendall, a true conservatory art school with a rich history of excellence in each program and collaboration among the programs."

Graduates of the BFA in Printmaking would have the option to pursue a graduate degree or begin careers familiar to other fine arts majors, including gallery artists, owners or managers, as well as work in museums as curators or managers of arts organizations. Graduates of the program can pursue careers in advertising and marketing, bookmaking, textiles, and in garment industries.

"Printmaking is both an ancient and a newly-thriving area for fine art and design," Rosen said. "On one hand, printmaking involves using age-old artisanal methods of reproduction, such as intaglio or screen printing that create a link between artist and image, as well as artist and viewer. This is prized in an age of the mass and virtual reproduction. It also allows students to use new technologies, such as laser printing and three-dimensional printmaking, which stretch the boundaries of the medium."

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design has indicated that current staff, space, and

equipment are adequate to move from the program's current status as a concentration in the Drawing BFA to a stand-alone BFA program at Kendall. Rosen anticipates that the growth of the program could ultimately require an additional full-time faculty member in three years.

Trustees also accepted administrative reports from the Academic Senate, Student Government and Ferris President David Eisler.

Friday's meeting of the trustees was the first meeting to be held with the participation of new trustees Erin Brown, of East Lansing, and Lori Gwizdala, of Bay City. The meeting took place under the leadership team of Chairman Gary Granger, of Byron Center; Vice Chair Sueann Walz, of Big Rapids, and Secretary Dr. William Lakin, of Clinton Twp.

In other news, trustees approved:

- appointments and reappointments to the boards of directors of FSU-Authorized Charter School academies;
- conditional authorization for the Muskegon Monterssori Academy for Environmental Change, in Muskegon, and the Oakland-Macomb Montessori Academy, in Warren;
- charter school contract reauthorizations and changes for Connor Creek Academy East, in Roseville; Lighthouse Academy, in Kentwood; Michigan Connections Academy, in Okemos; and New Bedford Academy, in Lambertville;
- recommendation of a non-renewal of contract with Pierre Toussaint Academy, in Detroit;
- honorary degrees for Dr. Joel C. Robertson, Doctorate of Health Services; Richard L. Antonini, Doctorate of Business and Industry; and Lupe Ramos-Montigny, Doctorate of Public Service, at the May 2013 commencement ceremonies;
- an honorary degree from Kendall College of Art and Design for Murray Tinkelman. Tinkelman will be awarded a Doctor of Arts on Saturday, May 11; and
- 11 sabbatical leave requests.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, May 10 in Big Rapids.

To read the online version of this story, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2013/february/contract.htm>

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Ferris Board of Trustees Declines to Ratify Faculty Contract Proposal

BIG RAPIDS - During its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, Feb. 22, the Ferris State University Board of Trustees was presented with the results of a ratification vote by the Ferris Faculty Association on a proposed contract extension. After taking this

under advisement, the Board voted not to ratify the proposal and issued the following statement:

“Today the Board of Trustees was asked to ratify a proposal outlining the major elements of a collective bargaining agreement with the Ferris Faculty Association that would take the University through the 2017-18 academic year. The Board has voted not to ratify this proposal. There are two major reasons for this.

“First, the Board supports an environment where individual Ferris faculty members have the ability to choose the ways in which, and the level to which, they support those who bargain on their behalf. This is the intent of recently passed state law, and the proposal in front of us would have curtailed this right. With the willing support of the faculty, the Ferris Faculty Association will provide effective and responsive advocacy for its members.

“Second, the Board of Trustees has a fiduciary responsibility to the University and its students. The Board has concerns that approving this proposal could have significant consequences that negatively impact the university’s fiscal position, and ultimately our students.

“The Board supports a collective bargaining process resulting in agreement with our faculty. We will address both of these elements - faculty rights and our responsibility to our students - when the University takes up the task of forging an agreement in the best interests of our faculty, our students, and the families of students who sacrifice to make their education possible.”

The FFA first put forward a proposal to extend the current collective bargaining agreement by two years during the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 15, 2012. The University and the FFA subsequently discussed ways in which the existing contract might be amended.

The resulting proposal would have required Ferris faculty members to remain dues-paying members of the FFA.

Faced with ratifying a proposal that included extending the union security clause, and with concerns about possible financial consequences, the Board felt that it should comply with the spirit of the new law. The university informed the leadership of the FFA in early February that the board would not support a proposal limiting faculty rights. The FFA chose to move forward with a ratification vote.

In describing the action of the Board of Trustees, Chairman Gary Granger said, “The Board considered this proposal very carefully. A compelling factor was a desire to follow newly passed legislation. Further, in the timeframe available to us, we could not determine the potential financial consequences of accepting this proposal. This is an unacceptable risk for our university, its faculty, staff and students.”

The current contract between the University and the FFA runs through June 30, 2013. The University is committed to reaching a fair and equitable contract agreement before that date.