

**Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, January 9, 2007– 10:00 a.m.  
West Campus Community Center**

**I. Call to Order:** **President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**II. Attendance**

*Officers Present:* President Richard Griffin, Secretary William Papo, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa

*Officers Absent:* None

*Senators Present:* Abbasabadi, Bandstra, A., Bandstra, J., Beistle, Berghoef, Borst, Carter, Cline, Cron, Danley, Drake, Hancock, Haneline, Hanna, Hettiarachchy, Karafa, Kavanaugh, Klatt, Kouider, Liszewski, McMartin, Nagel, Potter, Purvis, Sanderson, Schmidt, Sun, Taylor, Thomas, Tymes, Van De Mark, Watson, Weemaes

*Senators Absent:* Dakkuri (excused), Jewett (excused), Klope, Nelson

*Ex-Officio Members Present:* President David Eisler, VPAA Michael Harris, Elizabeth Schmidt

*Ex-Officio Members Absent:*

*Guests:* Leonard Johnson, Tom Oldfield, Richard Cochran, David Nicol, Ellen Haneline, Michelle Johnston, Matthew Klein, Roxanne Cullen, Julie Doyle, Dan Burcham, Kristin Salomonson, Kevin Alexander, Matt Pinter, Nancy Peterson-Klein

**III. Approval of the December 5, 2006 Minutes – Motion by Senator Carter, with support from Senator Tymes, to approve the minutes as written.**

**IV. Open Forum – Senator Papo** asked three questions. Will there be a search started to replace the VPAA, and when will it start, how will operations be addressed until the end of the academic year and what is the status of FSU-GR and the implementation of a new programs there? Dr. Eisler responded that Dr. Harris will continue in his position until June 30, 2007, at which time an interim appointment will be made. All operations will continue as normal. A new search will not be conducted this academic year. FSU-GR has a representative on the University Curriculum Committee and the Academic Program Review Council, all programs for implementation at that location will continue to be processed through the UCC with no changes.

**President Griffin** announced that as of the February Senate meeting, parking will no longer be allowed in the circle drive in front of the West Campus Community Center, as that area is a designated fire lane. Dr. Eisler will discuss the issue with Public Safety Director Bledsoe and report back to President Griffin prior to the next Senate meeting. He also announced that volunteers are needed for the May 2007 graduation ceremonies. Please contact Paula at the Senate Office if you would like to participate.

**V. Reports**

**President Griffin** had no report.

**Dr. Thapa, Senate Vice President,** reported that all committees are working on their charges.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**University Curriculum Committee – UCC Chair Leonard Johnson** told Senators that five items had been acted upon since the December Senate meeting; two of the proposals reviewed are on this agenda for Senate approval. His report is Attachment A of these minutes.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Special Event Planning Concentration of Resort Management Degree – Motion by Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Sanderson to approve the concentration.** Professor Julie Doyle, College of Business was available to respond to questions. Following brief discussion, motion carried.

**B. Special Event and Meeting Planning Minor – Motion by Senator Papo, with support from Senator Haneline to approve the new minor.** Professor Julie Doyle, College of Business was available to respond to questions and reported that the new minor is available to any student with a Bachelor's degree. Following a brief discussion, motion carried.

**VII. Announcements**

**FSU President David Eisler** reported that Dr. David Pilgrim has been appointed as the Chief Diversity Officer. He praised the efforts and work ethic of the search committee and thanked them for a job done extremely well. Dr. Pilgrim will sit on the President's Council and the Leadership Council. He will be on full-time release from his faculty position for one year, at which time he may return to faculty if he desires to. Dr. Eisler views this position as an on-going one. He reported that we have suffered some technical glitches over the past few days, but adds that as of late last evening, systems seem to be returning to normal. Early enrollment news is looking good; figures are up approximately 260 from last year at this time. Actual count will be on Thursday, January 11. Our biggest growth seems to be from transfer students. Senator Papo asked about actual student credit hours, Dr. Eisler reported that figure was up also, 273 over last year at this time. Vice President Burcham reported that numbers are looking good for us at this point in time. Dr. Eisler reported that the latest Task Force Reports are online at his website. He also reported that he expects a budget cut from the State and he is waiting to see how the state will replace the Single Business Tax, as the loss of those funds creates a 1.9 billion deficit in the state budget. He thanked our area politicians for their support of our efforts to be part of the Capital Outlay bill to support a new Michigan College of Optometry Building. He thanked faculty, staff and students for their lobbying efforts also. That funding remains a top priority for the University. He reminded Senator's that Legislative Day is March 27, 2007, with a reception in the Mackinaw Room. More information on this event will be distributed campus-wide at a later date, but he urged Senator's to mark their calendars and try to attend.

**Michael Harris, Vice President for Academic Affairs** thanked Pat Klarecki and Gretchen Spedowske for their part in the December commencement ceremonies. He reported that FerrisConnect (formerly WebCt/Vista) implementation is progressing well, and urged Senators to become part of the pilot program, as there is still time to sign up for training. There will be a Divisional Luncheon on January 16 in the Dome Room at Rankin Center from 11a.m. until 1 p.m. with a short program at noon. Please mark your calendars and try to attend. He thanked Dr. Cullen for her work in the VPAA's Office. He told Senators that a group of faculty members will accompany him to Stanford University for a meeting with seven other universities's to discuss and compare findings from the Political Engagement Project. We have approximately 1200 students involved and that we are impacting those students who want to participate. The Ferris group will present a DVD prepared by our students and faculty members in the Television/Digital Media program. Dr. Cochran reported that FLITE has subscribed to SAGE, giving us access to over 400 electronic professional and technical journals. An official announcement will be made later in the month. Dr. Matt Klein reported that College of Arts and Sciences has been awarded an S-STEM (National Science Foundation) grant in the amount of \$499,968. The funds are to be used to support scholarships in the Math/Science/Technology/Engineering area. Dr. Harris told Senators that Honor's Convocation will be held on February 11, 2007.

**Senate President Griffin** commented that he had the opportunity to view the PEP DVD and that it is very well done. He thanked Fred Wyman and his students for their hard work on the production. He announced that Senator Liszewski would be chairing the Senate Elections Committee.

**VIII. Open Forum**

**Senator Schmidt** asked Dr. Harris to elaborate on the PEP numbers. Dr. Harris commented that although he had not had time to analyze the information fully those that want to participate are and that we are making on impact on those that have chosen to participate.

**Senator Van De Mark** asked if the student who helped prepare the DVD will get credit for its production.

**IX. Adjournment – 10:55 a.m.**

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William Papo, Secretary

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Richard Griffin, President