

## ACADEMIC PLAN

### INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING COUNCIL of the FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC SENATE (adopted by the FSU Academic Senate on 10 / 7 / 2008)

After adoption of the Mission and Procedures by the Academic Senate, the Institutional Strategic Planning Council (ISPC) was formed in December, 2006. It was charged with developing a plan for the academic direction of Ferris State University (FSU) and submitting it to the Academic Senate. Subsequently, in the spring of 2007, FSU embarked on a University-wide planning effort led by the Strategic Planning And Resources Council (SPARC). The following academic plan was developed in the context of University-wide planning efforts. It was designed to be complementary to the FSU overall University plan, but with a focus on academics. The ISPC recognizes that much good academic work is ongoing at FSU, and this plan aims to prioritize and emphasize objectives for improvement.

This plan is meant to be an evolving document and the ISPC is charged with reviewing it regularly and updating as appropriate.

#### GOALS:

In an effort to advance its academic mission, Ferris State University (FSU) will:

##### **enhance the use of technology to improve academic outcomes.**

- FSU will explore the feasibility of more programs or departments implementing laptop computer requirements for students and learn from the experience of existing models.
- FSU will enhance its facilitation of technological learning at all levels (faculty, staff and students) of the institution.
- FSU will implement an enhanced professional development program for faculty and staff, including making existing resources more widely available.

##### **plan for an array of courses and programs with method of delivery that continues to be relevant and exemplary.**

- FSU will prioritize program integrity at all times, including in evaluating on-line programming, off-campus site feasibility and the delivery of off-campus courses and programs.
- FSU will explore ways to remove barriers to and provide incentives for collaboration among departments and programs in the development of courses and degrees.

##### **strive to be a model of the use of assessment in higher education.**

- FSU will review the Student Assessment of Instruction (SAI) and identify an alternative student evaluation format that is valid and reliable and provides constructive and formative feedback for the purpose of improving Ferris programs.
- FSU will continue to use and enhance the Academic Program Review Council (APRC) and University Curriculum Committee (UCC) as resources for improving learning outcomes and assuring their measurability.

- FSU will enhance available resources for providing faculty with assistance in developing measurable learning outcomes and using the results of these assessments to improve student learning.

**work toward optimal classroom environments for students and faculty.**

- FSU will provide information and support programs to assist faculty in their efforts to create an atmosphere of respect and civility in their classrooms, including dealing with disruptive classroom behavior.
- FSU will improve class scheduling so that courses are scheduled in up-to-date classrooms and laboratories that best meet the instructor's needs for that course.

**foster in its students responsible citizenship and social engagement and will facilitate service learning.**

- FSU will study the current state of involvement of students, including such things as registered student organizations (RSOs), political engagement project, etc., and will continue its support of successful ongoing projects and activities.
- FSU will support the concept of global citizenship broadly including such activities as study abroad, foreign language education, and other international initiatives.

**strive to be a community of scholars.**

- FSU will facilitate and expand cross-disciplinary gatherings of faculty.
- FSU will facilitate and encourage cross-disciplinary interactions among students.
- FSU will explore ways to remove barriers to and provide more incentives for faculty research endeavors for those who wish to pursue research.

The Academic Senate submits this plan to the Vice President for Academic Affairs with the hope that action plans with the assignment of responsibilities and timelines will follow, and offers to help in the progress toward achieving the goals of this plan in any way that it is able.