

**Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Regular Meeting  
February 5, 2008 – 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, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa, Secretary Lucy Ngoh  
*Senators Present:* Abbasabadi, Alspach, Berghoef, Beistle, Carter, Cline, Cron, Danley, Drake, Ding, Goosen, , Hancock, Hansen, Jewett, Kavanaugh, Klatt, Kouider, Liszewski, McLean, McMartin-Isler, Morcom Nagel, Nelson, Potter, Purvis, Sanderson, Sun, Van de Mark, Weemaes  
*Senators Absent:* Haneline (excused), Hanna, D., Hanna, H., Hardman, Jorsch (excused), Watson (excused), Papo

*Ex-Officio Members Present:* President David Eisler, Joe Viviano, FSU Student Govt. President Interim VPAA Tom Oldfield

*Ex-Officio Members Absent:* None

*Guests:* Michelle Johnston, Ellen Haneline, David Nicol, Don Flickinger, Leonard Johnson, Robert Von der Osten, David Pilgrim, Kevin Babcock, Mike Cairns, Rick Bearden, Frank Crowe

III. **Approval of the minutes of January 15, 2008 – Motion by Senator Carter, with support from Senator Danley, moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.**

IV. **Open Forum – No comments at this time.**

V. **Reports**

**President Griffin** reminded Senators of the importance of attending Senate and Senate Committee meetings and distributed to those present a copy of Article VII from the current Academic Senate Charter. **Senator Nagel** asked if it was possible to serve on two committees. **President Griffin** responded that no one should have to serve on more than one committee and that Senate service on committees is very important, as it is the link to the Senate.

**Secretary Ngoh** had no report at this time.

VI. **Committee Reports**

**UCC Chair Leonard Johnson** told Senators that later in today's meeting one proposal is on the agenda for approval and provided Senators with a written report of the most recent reviewed proposals (Attachment A).

VII. **New Business**

**A. Adopt Mission and Vision Statement**

**Dr. Robert Von der Osten** appeared at the Senate meeting to ask for support from the Academic Senate for the revised Mission and Vision Statement prepared by SPARC. Drafts of these documents are Attachment B of these minutes. **Senator Carter**, with support from **Senate Berghoef**, moved to endorse the Mission statement. Following a brief discussion, motion carried. **Senator Alspach**, with support from **Senator Thapa**, moved to endorse the Vision statement. Motion carried.

**B. Adopt FSU's Diversity Plan 2008-2010**

**Dr. David Pilgrim**, Chief Diversity Officer, asked Senators to endorse the FSU Diversity Plan 2008-2010. Dr. Pilgrim reported that 22% of students responded to the recent Diversity Survey. Reports can be generated from the data received and are available; please contact his office with the type of reporting that you need. He advised the group that the current plan is much shorter, retaining broad categories. He stated that the plan must remain a flexible and working document, moving forward with new initiatives, but the work will be occurring at the Division level. Dr. Pilgrim informed Senators that the Board approves the general plan and

each division will create work groups who will create specific work related initiatives in their areas. Each college will also be asked to put together teams of faculty members and ask them to suggest initiatives. FSU is one of the few universities in this state that has a TIPS Scholars Office. There are meetings scheduled with HRD and University Advancement and Marketing to work on a campaign to market the University to prospective employees. Some specific initiatives are in the plan; however, most initiatives will take place at the departmental and divisional levels.

**Senator McMartin-Isler** questioned Dr. Pilgrim about establishing an International Education Students Program, wondering if that meant bringing back the Office of International Affairs. Dr. Pilgrim responded that the Diversity Plan originated from the campus committee, and he met with countless numbers of people. One of the issues raised was that International students had needs that were not being met right now and that the University would benefit from a large International student population. Dr. Oldfield responded that the VPAA's Office is trying to bring back a more cohesive unit working with International students, stating that we will be working through a third party recruiter.

**Senator Danley** questioned item 2A of the Plan, wondering how the University is best served by specifically targeting Wayne County with a recruiter. Dr. Pilgrim replied that Wayne County is a hotly contested area; most other universities have a presence in that area of the state. Ferris already has contacts in that area and recently expanded into the Chicago area as well. With a person in the Wayne County area we are able to convince counselors to bring students to Ferris State University. Dr. Eisler responded that 93% of our students are from in-state, approximately 1/3 are from the Grand Rapids area, another 1/3 are from southwest Michigan, and the final 1/3 are from all other areas of this state. Potential students develop a relationship with the counselor because they are already in that area. It is a strategy that makes sense for the University.

**Senator Nagel** asked how RSOs, clubs, and professional groups are involved. Dr. Pilgrim replied that monthly meetings are held with RSO leaders, three RSO are represented on the committee as well as a representative from Student Government.

**Senator Carter**, with support from **Senator Thapa**, moved to endorse the Diversity Plan. Following a brief discussion, motion carried.

### C. Adopt Repeating a Course Policy

**Senator McMartin-Isler**, with support from **Senator Sun**, moved to endorse the revised Repeating a Course Policy.

**Academic Standards and Policy Committee Chair Bearden** explained that the revised policy brings our policy back into alignment with what other universities within the state have and to recognize the fact that repeating a course unlimited time is not in the student's best interest, so a limit of three times was included in the policy. It also clarifies what the lines of decision-making are if a student needs to appeal.

**Senator Nagel** questioned why we changed the policy from the highest grade to the last grade. VP Flickinger stated that all sister institutions (4 yr. and 2 yr.) were reviewed, with the majority taking the last grade.

**Senator Sun** asked how repeating a course at a different university affects the student here. VP Flickinger responded that it does apply at FSU as well. **Senator Cline** asked how students will be notified of the change. Committee Chair Bearden replied that the effective date is Fall 2008, giving us extra time to circulate this information to our students. **Senator Drake** asked if the policy will be retroactive in calculating grade points. VP Flickinger stated that it will be effective for all courses starting Fall 2008. **Senator Potter** stated that repeating the course three times total seemed excessive and asked for some background. VP Flickinger stated that the number of repeats at sister institutions ranged from two to five. Three seemed to be a fairly reasonable number. Committee Chair Bearden added that committee members had the same question, so that number appeared to be the middle ground the committee was happy with. **Senator Cline** asked if the system will be programmed to catch this. VP Flickinger responded that it will not and that it will need to be corrected. **Senator Sun** asked if a student withdraws from the course, is that considered taking the course. VP Flickinger stated that a withdraw is a withdraw.

**President Griffin** called the question, motion carried with one nay vote.

### D. ROTC/Military Science Curriculum Proposal

**Senator Carter, with support from Senator Alspach, moved to approve the revised curriculum proposal. Dean Johnston, Dr. Crowe, and Major Babcock** were present to respond to concerns and questions. **Dr. Crowe** stated that this is a strong leadership curriculum and that it is a solid minor for other majors on campus. The curriculum is shared with Central Michigan University, and the numbers have been down, but are moving up in recent years. A major goal of the College of Education and Human Services is to have a stand-alone program. **Major Babcock** stated that 30 students are currently enrolled in the program and that five (5) students can be commissioned each year. These changes are being driven by cadet command and the Department of the Army; they put the curriculum together. **Senator Nagel** asked if these courses are possible without a minor. **Major Babcock** replied that decision would be up to the program manager, and the student must start at the lowest level, basic military skills. **Senator Jewett** asked if the student must have the listed prerequisites. **Major Babcock** replied that some prerequisites could be waived based on the decision of the program manager. **Senator Nagel** asked if CJ students are interested in the minor, **Dr. Crowe** replied that CJ students are currently enrolled. **Senator Jewett** stated that he feels that the minor misrepresents itself by not listing all of the courses required. **Dr. Crowe** stated that the listing has been corrected. **UCC Chair Leonard Johnson** informed Senators that the checksheets had been updated to show the prerequisites. Motion to approve carried.

### Announcements

**President Eisler** thanked Dr. Von der Osten for his work on the revised Mission and Vision statements. He said this was a historic day because the first University Diversity Plan has been approved by the Senate. He thanked Dr. Pilgrim for his work and the Senate for its support. Dr. Eisler encouraged Senators to participate in the Goal Statement stakeholder conferences. He reminded Senators of the Festival of Arts during the month of February, stating that there are some wonderful programs. He stated that the State Budget will be released on Thursday and that he will testify before the State Senate on February 25, 2008. On our agenda will be the construction of the new Optometry building, however, it is not on the capital outlay list. Unit Action Plans will be presented today, this will be the last time that format is used. Dr. Eisler was happy to report that contingency fees were returned to students.

**Interim Vice President Oldfield** announced that Dr. Ellen Haneline was selected as the new Dean for the College of Allied Health Sciences and that a search committee for the Dean of the Michigan College of Optometry has been appointed, with a very short timeline. Dr. Oldfield would like to have campus interviews by April 1, 2008. He also reported that the University was accepted into an Assessment Academy.

**President Griffin** reported that this evening PEP is sponsoring an election watch in Westview Dining and asked that students be encouraged to attend.

**Vice President Thapa** apologized for arriving late and announced that Senator Alspach will act as the chair of the Senate Elections Committee. He thanked senator **Liszewski for serving as Election chair last year.** **Vice President Thapa** also announced that Senator Sun and Ding will represent the Academic Senate on the Student Fees Committee.

### VIII. Open Forum

Senator Carter stated that Physical Plant employees should be thanked for their hard work in getting the campus ready for classes today.

### IX. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m.

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Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

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Richard Griffin, President