

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
March 3, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
West Campus Community Center**

- I. **Call to Order: President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- II. **Attendance:**
Officers Present: President Richard Griffin, Vice-President Michael Berghoef, Secretary Lucy Ngoh, Past President Dakkuri
Senators Present: Abbasabadi, Alspach, Beistle, Berghoef, Brandly, Cron, DeKoster Ding, Drake, Goosen, Haneline, Hanna, D., Hanna, H., Hansen, Jewett, Jorsch, Klatt, Kouider, Lashaway-Bokina, Liszewski, Lovsted, Isler, McLean, Morcom, Nagel, Nash, Papo, Purvis, Sanderson, Schmidt, Smith, Sun, Thapa, Topcu, Wellman
Senators Absent: Cline (excused), Goosen, Haneline (excused), Hanna, H. (excused), McLean, Nelson, Weemaes
Ex-Officio Members Present: President David Eisler, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs Daniel Burcham, Student Government President Amber Balmer
Ex-Officio Members Absent: None
Guests: Don Flickinger, Ellen Haneline, Leonard Johnson, David Nicol, David Pilgrim, Roberta Teahen, Don Green, Lauri Steeland, Rick Baker, Sayed Hashimi, Julie Coon, Megan Dixon, Kathy Gerard, Matt Pinter
- III. **Approval of the Minutes – February 3, 2009 minutes – Senator Jewett, with support from Senator Sun, moved to approve as written. Motion carried.**
- IV. **Open Forum – Dr. Sayed Hashimi, Chair, Survey/Engineering Department,** reported that our students took first place at a National Competition in Salt Lake City, Utah for the third time in four years. The group was led by Autumn Park, a senior in the program who has a 3.9 grade point average.

Senator Sandy Alspach reported that Academic Honors Convocation was held on Sunday and thanked the VPAA's Office for supporting this event honoring our students.
- V. **Reports**

President Griffin had no report at this time.

Vice President Berghoef reported that we are still recruiting for two Senate Committees that will be meeting during the summer months. He told Senators that if their committee has identified criteria for membership selection, please send that information for the next Senate Executive Board meeting. APR appointments will be made in March; the AHELL committee had its second meeting. Senate elections will be held at the end of March, please encourage your colleagues to participate.

Secretary Ngoh had no report at this time.

Senate Election Chair Liszewski reported that Senate elections will be held electronically on March 24 and 25, 2009. Nomination forms are **due Friday, March 6**, in the Academic Senate Office (CSS 208A). A list of candidates will be posted no later than March 17 on the Academic Senate website.
- VI. **Committee Reports**

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- A. University Curriculum Committee - Leonard Johnson, UCC Chair** - Dr. Johnson presented the Senate with a list of action taken since the February Senate meeting (Attachment A). Please note that the Fleet Management Minor and Certificate proposals included in your package is not ready, as documents needed were not received for inclusion. Please keep these proposals, as they will be ready in April. On the agenda are three proposals for your approval. Faculty members were present to respond to concerns and questions.

VII. Presentation – Laurie Steeland, Student Government Readership Program

Ms. Steeland was introduced by **Student Government President Amber Balmer**. The Student Government Readership program supplies the New York Times, USA Today, and the Detroit News at several locations on campus. Student Government needs help to make sure this program survives and is looking for \$2,000 to \$3,000 additional funding. Laurie reviewed the numbers of papers that are read each day on our campus.

VIII. New Business

- A. Ski Resort Management Certificate – Motion by Senator Ngoh, with support from Senator B. Smith, to support the new certificate. Motion carried.**
- B. Respiratory Care Program Redirection – Motion by Senator Alspach, with support from Senator Papo, to support the program redirection. Motion carried.**
- C. Digital Media Software Engineering Redirection - Motion by Senator Wellman, with support from Senator DeKoster, for the program redirection.** Following a lengthy discussion with questions answered by Rick Baker, FSU-GR faculty member in this program, **Senator Papo called the question, with support from Senator Abbasabadi, question failed. Senator Jewett** expressed a concern regarding programs saying they are seeking accreditation and wonders if anyone follows up to see if accreditation is ever granted. Following a short discussion, **President Griffin called the question, question carried, motion carried.**

IX. Announcements

President Eisler reported that the Executive budget is under consideration by the House of Representatives and that Governor Granholm has asked for a college tuition freeze statewide. He stated that he believes that some of the items cut from the budget will be restored such as funding for the Arts, and for the cooperative agriculture programs. The Governor cut 1.6 million dollars, but he stated he believes the KCP funding may be restored or partially restored. The state is required to restore the budget for 2010 at 2009 levels. The idea of a tuition freeze is a more damaging cut, freezing tuition would result in a 6.2 million dollar shortfall. A one percent increase adds approximately \$900,000 in terms of added revenue. Any economic stimulus funds received from the state must be used to mitigate the impact of tuition increases on our students. He proposes that the economic stimulus funds be given directly to our students to help them pay their tuition next year and the year after. Dr. Eisler announced that meetings will be held on Wednesday at noon and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the budget and the unrestricted net assets of the University. He urged all to attend either of the meetings if possible. He has asked Deans and Vice Presidents to look for opportunities for savings. At this point we have cut 2.5 million from next year's budget. He believes that we will have to make 3.5 to 5 million in cuts before we are finished. He urged Senators for their input on these important budget issues. Dr. Eisler stressed that our ideas are important to him to protect the academic quality of our enterprise, to protect those who work here and depend on us for their livelihood, and to limit our costs to the students. We are not going to ask for the tuition that we need to balance our budget. We are going to ask for less tuition than that and in doing that we are going to take a self inflicted cut. He stated that he believes this is the right call for next year for our students. In response to a question regarding out of state tuition, he replied that we are at 150% of in state tuition and we have expanded our radius to 300 miles. He would

like to use any stimulus funds to help our students. Any final decision on how funding is spent is up to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Eisler stated that our overall budget is 232 million; general part of our budget is 172 million, in the past salaries have equaled 70-75% of the total budget. Most of the high cost programs that we have are capped in terms of enrollment. We have been able to grow our enrollment and reduce the cost per student. The average cost per student goes up 2.9% per year. Our bargaining unit contracts on campus include an overall compensation increase in excess of 3% when you include wages and benefits. We have earmarked a 1.4 million dollar increase in financial aid. There is also a half million dollar increase for our MPSERS costs. If we freeze tuition we have to find a way to cut 2.4 million before we even begin.

Interim Vice President Burcham stated that any student who qualifies for a scholarship gets one. Offers are up 754 from this time last year. We have many hybrid programs and we need to keep doing that to attract students. The Midwest Scholarship is helping keep our numbers up.

President Griffin stated that Senator Jewett's concern regarding accreditation is a valid one and asked Professor Jewett to collect data on accredited programs for the Senate Executive Board. Dr. Teahen added that some of this information will be available on TracDat.

X. Open Forum

Student Government President Amber Balmer reported that there is a Student Government Scholarship worth \$1000. The Dean of Student Life is sponsoring a program whereby each student will receive a notebook that contains valuable information about Ferris and its programs.

XI. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 11:21 a.m.

Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

Richard Griffin, President