

**Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, November 7, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.  
West Campus Community Center**

**I. Call to Order: President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**II. Attendance**

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

*Officers Absent:*

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

*Senators Absent:* Drake (excused), Hanna, Thomas (excused), Watson (excused),

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

*Ex-Officio Members Absent:* VPAA Michael Harris

*Guests:* Leonard Johnson, Tom Oldfield, Michelle Johnston, Roberta Teahan, Ron Mehringer, Roxanne Cullen

**III. Approval of the October 3, 2006 Minutes** – Motion by **Senator Jewett**, with support from **Senator Bandstra**, to approve the October 3, 2006 minutes as written. Motion carried.

**IV. Open Forum – No Comments**

**V. Reports**

**President Griffin** reported that Paula Hadley, the Senate Office Secretary has been working with Melinda McMartin and Past President Dakkuri, preparing documents for the Ferris Institutional Depository (FIR). At this time approximately two-thirds of Senate materials have been converted into documents in preparation for the transfer. Minutes, accepted and defeated motions will be posted by academic year at the FIR website with Ms. McMartin's help. As the project continues, additional materials such as committee minutes, guides, and other materials may be added if space permits. President Griffin also reminded Senators to vote.

**Dr. Thapa, Senate Vice President**, advised Senators that Dr. Robert Friar and James Rumpf were selected by the Senate Executive Committee to sit on the International Education Committee. Dr. Thapa has received some complaints regarding the way committee members are selected and suggested that the application form may be revised so that additional information regarding applicants is available.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**A. University Curriculum Committee – UCC Chair Leonard Johnson** advised Senators of curriculum proposals reviewed and actions taken since the September 5 meeting, as listed in his report (Attachment A). He also reported that the UCC met with Dr. Robert Von der Osten regarding assessment. The UCC will begin working on revising Form E of the UCC Manual in the very near future.

**B. Radiation Safety Committee – Senator Jewett**, appointee to the Radiation Safety Committee provided a brief written report (Attachment B). At this point there is no committee; however, one is being formed under the direction of Acting Dean Haneline, Allied Health Sciences. Senator Jewett will be included in its roster as an ex officio member. The committee is a requirement of our license with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**C. Academic Program Review – Senator Haneline**, Chair of the Academic Program Review Council, reported that the Council has met with all thirteen representatives of the programs being reviewed this year and has received two additional reports from programs asked to provide supplemental information. On Thursday evening, the Senate Executive Committee and Vice President for Academic Affairs representatives will meet to discuss recommendations. Those recommendations will be forwarded as

quickly as possible via email, so that Senators can review the information prior to the November 14, 06, 6:00 p.m. meeting of the full Senate.

## VII. Announcements

**FSU President David Eisler** told Senators that Legislative Day for Ferris State University will be March 28, 2007. He reminded Senators of the Ferris Foundation Gala, featuring James Earl Jones. He told Senators that classes will conclude at noon on Wednesday, November 22, for Thanksgiving Break. There will be a full Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, November 9, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Residence halls will close at 5 p.m., as well as dining service centers. He apologized to the Senate, as he will miss the Academic Program Review Council Senate meeting on November 14. He will be attending a meeting of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact in Indianapolis. He is a member of the Executive Committee, appointed to the position by Governor Granholm. He has two areas of concern following the election: how will the general fund dollars be replaced without the small business tax and will there be a Capital Outlay bill, as we will be seeking funding for a new Optometry building. He thanked Senators for their contribution to the University and for allowing him to be a part of the Senate.

**Michael Harris, Vice President for Academic Affairs** was unable to attend due to a meeting in New York City with dignitaries from Viet Nam, working on an articulation agreement. **Associate VP Cullen** reported that the Assessment Committee will be holding its fair on Friday, February 16, 2007. Website updates have been made on the Assessment webpage and the IRC webpage. Scheduling for the newly renovated building will be processed through the Faculty Center. There is currently a contest going for the naming of WebCT Vista Project at Ferris. For more information, please contact Asst. VP Pat Klarecki. She thanked the Colleges of Allied Health and Technology. They, in response to plant closures in Greenville, Michigan developed programs for displaced workers.

**Senate President Griffin** reminded Senators to vote and to attend the Senate meeting on the evening of November 14, 2006. He also reminded them of the Political Engagement Project Election Eve watch in Westview Dining Center.

## VIII. Open Forum

**Senator Dakkuri** expressed a concern that the Senate committee structure is not working and needs to be revised or restructured, that all committees should follow the same guidelines.

**Vice President Thapa** reported that he has numerous complaints regarding no committee appointment. He would like to have the Senate Committee Form revised for 2007-2008.

**Senator Potter** inquired as to the possibilities of conference calling. **Senator McMartin** advised that FLITE has equipment for conference calling, also, if a conference phone is needed at other locations on campus, please call Paula with the details for the meeting and a conference phone will be installed.

**Senator Jewett** made the following statement.

As a follow up to the Radiation Safety Committee report that I presented earlier, I would like to make the following statement:

I have made service on the Radiation Safety Committee my first choice since I have been a member of the Senate and have continually received appointment to my second choice. During the last two years, following the appointments, I have pursued a reason for this and was given various responses, but never a good answer! One issue that has been brought up is that the representative should be someone "knowledgeable" in radiation.

I understand that again this year this was the argument given – despite the fact that several members of the Executive committee were fully aware of my background as a US Navy Nuclear Engineer! So, one has to wonder what would be considered knowledgeable. Especially when a review of past appointees to this

position have included a faculty from the Language and Literature Department! Could there have been other motives?

I would encourage all senators to be persistent in doing whatever is necessary to “do the right thing.” It is only through my persistence in getting on this committee that has led to the discoveries that I reported earlier.

One of the most frustrating aspects of this situation has been my inability to find out information about what took place during the meeting of the Executive Committee. This is illogical to me since the Executive Committee is a part of the larger body of the Senate – why would we not be allowed to see minutes from those meetings?

Hence, I plan on making a motion that Executive Committee meeting minutes be recorded and provided to the Senate body for review at our regular meetings. Those meetings should not be “behind closed doors.”

He also questioned the manner of Senate Committee appointments. He stated that many people do not attend.

**Senator Haneline** told Senators that one way to acquire experience in other fields is to work on a committee. He stated that experience is very important in some areas, but that experience should not be the only measuring stick.

**Senator VandeMark** stated that she is one of those who tried to get on a committee numerous times, with no response. She stated that she had talked to a committee chair regarding appointment and was told that as an artist she was not needed.

**IX. Adjournment – 10:55 a.m.**

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William Papo, Secretary

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Richard Griffin, President