

**Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
April 27, 2010
11:00-12:00 noon Session
West Campus Community Center**

Minutes

I.	Action Items: elections conducted by Sen. Beistle, Elections Committee chair, who welcomed the newly elected Senators. She thanked in advance the members of her counting committee.	
	A.	Douglas (Doug) Haneline (nominated by Sen. Abbasabadi) was elected President of the Academic Senate, without opposition.
	B.	Michael (Mike) Berghoef (nominated by Sen. Griffin) was re-elected Vice President of the Academic Senate. There were three nominations. Maureen Heaphy (nominated by Sen. Thapa) declined the nomination. Keith Jewett (nominated by Sen. Alspach) and Mike Berghoef spoke to their candidacy. The vote was 28 for Berghoef, 6 for Jewett.
	C.	Sandra (Sandy) Alspach (nominated by Sen. Heaphy) was re-elected Secretary of the Academic Senate, unopposed, when Maureen Heaphy and David Hanna declined the nomination.
	D.	The following Senators were nominated for positions on Executive Committee as Member-at-Large. Melinda Isler (nominated by Sen. Sun) and Khagendra Thapa (nominated by Sen. ??) declined nomination. The ballot count for each nominee is recorded.
	23	Maureen Heaphy (nominated by Sen. Skrocki)
	20	Marilyn Skrocki (nominated by Sen. Heaphy?)
	18	David Hanna (nominated by Sen. Thapa)
	16	Keith Jewett (nominated by Sen. Haneline)
	15	Piram Prakasam (nominated by Sen. Griffin)

Attendance:	
Senators present	Abbasabadi, Alspach, Beistle, Berghoef, Bokina-Lashaway, Boncher, Brandly, Colley, Compton, Cook, Dakkuri, Daugherty, Drake, Gillespie, Griffin, Hancock, Haneline, Hanna, Heaphy, Isler, Jewett, Joyce, Klatt, Liszewski, Lukusa Barnett, Luplow, Maike, Marion, McNulty, Nash, Prakasam, Rewers, Sanderson, Skrocki, Sun, Thapa, Wagenheim
Senators absent with cause	Jorsch, Taylor
Senators absent	Nagel
Ex Officio and Guests	Teahen, Flickinger

II.	Open Forum	
	A.	Pres. Haneline made observations about the coming year for the Academic Senate.
	1.	He reminded Senators that 'we are in the advice business'. Since the full Senate will meet only ten times for approximately 2 hours at a time, totaling about 20 hours for deliberation, he suggested that we use our time together, and our committee structure, effectively to give the best advice possible to the administration.
	2.	He anticipated that "big things" will be happening in the next year for the Senate to consider. He urged the body to begin training new leaders at all levels of Senate activity now, since "we won't be around forever".
	3.	He encouraged Senators to carefully monitor the changes that are happening in higher education in the state and in the nation.
	B.	Several issues arose during the election process.
	1.	Sen. Beistle invited candidates nominated for offices to speak to their candidacy. Following the election of the Vice President, discussion ensued concerning the process of campaigning for an office. Several candidates had emailed statements of their

		willingness to serve to the new Senators prior to the election meeting. The Charter does not address campaigning practices. Sen. Prakasam expressed concern about campaigning prior to the election meeting.
		Because there was only one nominee for President, Sen. Alspach asked to elect 'by acclamation'; however, Parliamentarian Loesch advised that this procedure was out of order since the Charter specifies that a ballot vote must be taken for all elected positions.
		During the election of Senate officers, Sen. Abbasabadi asked to identify candidates by their colleges. He expressed concern that all officers are from the same college.
		During the election of Members-at-Large, questions arose about the process of listing three names on one ballot. It was noted that this procedure had been recommended by the Charter Revision Committee and adopted by the 2009-2010 Senate.
		It was noted, and supported by the Parliamentarian, that the Rules Committee should review the Election Procedures described by the Charter and make recommendations.
	C.	Sen. Prakasam encouraged the new Senate, and the new Vice President, to establish a process for assessing the Senate's committee structure.
	D.	Pres. Haneline thanked the Senate for their confidence in him and promised that he will seek to ensure it. He invited Senators to email concerns to him directly at hanelind@ferris.edu . He offered three remarks:
	1.	The Senate should be proud of the work that has been done by this body.
	2.	The Senate should be frustrated that more work has not been done by this body.
	3.	The Senate should focus on the most important things that it should be doing in the coming year.
		He asked the newly elected Executive Committee members to stay briefly after the adjournment.

III.	Announcements	
	A.	Sen. Hanna observed that the new roster of Senators and committee assignments included three representatives from the College of Engineering Technology on the distinguished Teacher Committee. Seeing this situation as inappropriate, he offered to seek an alternative committee assignment.
	B.	Sen. Prakasam requested that committee assignments be made earlier, ideally within the first week of the fall semester.
		Pres. Haneline noted that this process is governed by the Charter language, and he suggested that the Rules Committee address Sen. Prakasam's concern.
	C.	Administrative Assistant Hadley asked all Senators to review the 2010-2011 roster for any additions or corrections.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Sandy Alspach
Secretary

Richard Griffin
President