



PRESS RELEASES: Ferris State University Board of Trustees Meetings (May 10, 2013)

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included below are TWO press releases highlighting Ferris State University's Board of Trustees meetings from Friday, May 10 in Big Rapids in the Rankin Student Center. Among the highlights of the meeting, trustees approved tuition rates for the 2013-14 academic year, a contract extension for President David Eisler and the naming of the Federal Building, in Grand Rapids, as the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.

To read the online version of this story, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2013/may/trustees1.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2013

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Board of Trustees Sets Tuition Rates for 2013-14 Academic Year

BIG RAPIDS – At its meeting on Friday, May 10, the Ferris State University Board of Trustees voted to set tuition rates for the 2013-14 academic year, implementing a 2.24-percent increase for undergraduate tuition.

“In setting tuition rates this early in the year, the Board wanted to help students to best plan for the upcoming year,” said Ferris President David Eisler. “We have been very mindful of the cost of a college education, and this modest increase helps us meet our dual goals of containing costs and maintaining the quality of our academic offerings.”

Board of Trustees Chair Gary Granger echoed Eisler’s emphasis on keeping a Ferris degree affordable.

“We as a board are very pleased with efforts of the administration to be cost-conscious and offer an educational experience that is very competitive,” Granger said. “They’ve done a good job of working with their leadership team to evaluate expenses in every area so we can offer a fair and competitive rate at a very attractive price point for students and their families.”

In keeping with a structure currently in use at seven other Michigan universities, the trustees also

voted to implement an upper-division tuition rate which will go into effect for the Spring 2013 semester. The rate will create a \$5 differential between lower and upper-division rates, which reflects the increased costs of delivering instruction for third-and fourth-year students, versus first-and second-year undergraduates. Ferris' 300-400 level courses cost almost 30 percent more to deliver than the university's 100-200 level courses.

In April, Central Michigan University raised tuition rates 2.57 percent, and last week Michigan Tech raised undergraduate tuition 2.9 percent. For the fall semester, full-time undergraduates at Ferris will pay \$365 per credit hour, an increase of just \$8 per-credit-hour, or \$120 per 15-credit-hour semester – for a total of \$5,475 per semester. This brings the university's undergraduate rate per 30-semester year to \$10,950, up from \$10,710. Last year, Ferris State University's tuition increase of 2.59 percent was the second-lowest in the state.

Although appropriations for higher education have not yet been completed, the university is positioned to do well under the state's formula for performance-based funding. Last year Ferris' emphasis on career-oriented degrees, increased graduation rates and constrained administrative costs made it one of the top recipients of performance-based aid. The alignment of the university's priorities with the need to create a workforce educated for 21st century challenges means Ferris again this year stands to be rewarded for meeting the state's performance metrics.

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Ferris Board of Trustees Honor University Founder

BIG RAPIDS – The renovated historic Federal Building in downtown Grand Rapids, which expanded Ferris State University's Kendall College of Art and Design campus, will be named the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building in honor of university founder Woodbridge N. Ferris. The university's Board of Trustees approved the new name at its meeting on Friday, May 10, in Big Rapids.

The building recently received LEED Gold certification and won a Governor's Award, from Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, for the preservation and renovation of the historic facility that was

originally dedicated in 1911. Through public-private partnership, the university invested about \$28 million into the renovation project to expand the Kendall campus into 91,000 square feet of additional classroom, office and studio space.

Ferris President David Eisler said naming the building in honor of the university's founder deepens the institution's already strong commitment to working together with the city of Grand Rapids and the region.

"Given the success of this marvelous partnership and understanding the importance of the history and tradition of our institutions, naming the historic Federal Building for the founder of our university is a great symbol of our commitment to the City of Grand Rapids and West Michigan generally," Eisler said.

In recognizing the contributions of its current president, the board voted to extend Eisler's contract by one year, taking it through June 30, 2018. The board's increase of the president's salary by 2.25 percent is consistent with increases this year for other administrative personnel.

Board Chair Gary Granger cited Eisler's commitment to the university and the continuity of leadership he has provided to Ferris.

"The board feels very fortunate to have a relationship with a president so dedicated to the success of Ferris State University. We also feel fortunate that we have a long-term relationship that will continue for many years to come. The board fully supports Dave's leadership," Granger said.

In other news, trustees approved:

- the administration's request to issue bonds for an amount not to exceed \$13 million required for completion of the University Center project;
- the new Associate of Applied Science in Marketing degree. The degree was recommended by the College of Business to serve as a ladder for students who want to continue on to the Bachelor of Science in Marketing degree program;
- issuing the rank of professor, posthumously, to Lucy Ngoh, who joined the faculty of the College of Pharmacy, in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, in 1992. Ngoh died in December 2012 in a bus accident while delivering medication and supplies in Cameroon;
- the appointments and reappointments of seven members of the boards of directors for university-authorized charter schools;

In other news, trustees accepted:

- the "Diversity at Ferris 2012" report from Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion David Pilgrim. The university's original plan, approved by trustees on March 21, 2008, featured four strategic goals: Create a university that is welcoming to diverse

populations; recruit, retain and graduate a diverse student population; hire and retain a diverse workforce; and create environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student population. The full 24-page report can be reviewed on the Diversity and Inclusion website, here:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/pdf/DiversityatFerris2012report.pdf>;

The next scheduled full meeting of the trustees is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 4 in Grand Rapids. The full board will meet at 11 a.m. following committee meetings at 10 a.m. The trustees are scheduled for a special meeting, via conference call, on Tuesday, July 9.