

**Minutes
Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
IRC 120
November 5, 2013**

Members in Attendance: Abbasabadi, Alspach, Bacon, Baker, Barnes, Berghoef, Boncher, Brandly, Bajor, Cook, Dakkuri, Daubert, Drake, Fox, Groves, Hanna, Harlan, Ing, Isler, Jenerou, Klatt, Marion, Nazar, Peircey, Potter, Richmond, Rumpf, Schmidt, Thapa, Todd, Tower, Wancour,

Members absent with cause: Griffin, Joyce, Nagel

Members absent: Amey, Dinardo, Jiao, Yowitz

Ex Officio and Guests: Blake, Damari, Eisler, Erickson, Garrison, Heck, Johnston, Nicol, Potter, Stanislav, Barkel, Teahen, Schult, Luecke, Dawson, Waller, Franklund, Coon, Flickinger

1.	President Khagendra Thapa opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Secretary Isler moved to pass the minutes with corrections as noted. Senator Brandly seconded. Corrections to October 1, 2013 read. Motion carried.
3.	Open Forum A. Library Dean Scott Garrison said plans were underway for 2013 author celebration in early 2014 and said they were looking for any items published in 2013. B. Senator Alspach said that the finals of the student speaking contest would be held that week and the theme was the about Big Brother watching you. C. Senator Wancour said she wanted to congratulate all of those who were presenting at the Lilly North teaching conference. She said that Ferris was well represented.
4.	Officer Reports A. President Thapa welcomed Larry Bajor as the new senator from the College of Business. B. Vice-President Marion said that the task forces were at work. He noted that the Faculty Research Committee is in discussions to merge some of their functions with the research office committees and Health Services may be doing something as well. Senator Cook asked how student representatives are appointed and what happens if they do not show up Vice-President Marion said they are sent but student government. C. Secretary Isler noted that corrections to the minutes can be submitted in advance of the meeting to her directly.
5.	Committee Reports. A. Chair Alspach discussed in the report the need to have all votes recorded at all letters and the possible implications. They can request minutes of college level votes where no votes or support with concern votes have been registered. Senator Cook asked if a proposal is voted on as a support with concerns, if it can move forward without addressing those concerns. Alspach said the only way to stop a proposal is to vote no. Senator Drake pointed out that the only individuals who can stop a proposal are the dean or the provost and the UCC and college curriculum committees are technically advisory. They cannot stop a proposal but hopefully, common sense would prevail. B. The Vice-President of Student Government Trevor Waller reported that they are reviewing furniture for the new University Center, discussing tuition rates and beginning the holiday food drive.
6.	NSSE-FSSE data report. Senator Dakkuri and Assessment Coordinator Clifton Franklund gave a detailed presentation on the NSSE-FSSE data. They were looking for disconnects between what the students and faculty believe are going on at Ferris. Areas in which they focused were: diversity, communication, capstones and collaboration. They had a series of recommendations to improve our scores in these areas. Senator Cook said the Business Associate Dean Lucien Leone was working to implement some of these ideas in his college. Senator Piercey suggested a permanent location to display student work. In the discussions of capstones, Senator Drake points out that the UCC requires one but perhaps the lack of understanding by students. Senator Ing said this would likely be the case for education students in the “student teaching” experience. Senator Bajor expressed a concern that linguistics was no longer

	emphasized, and many students now no longer take a foreign language- which is a cultural experience. Vice-Provost Teahen noted that students have not yet taken the NSSE this year, and there will be some changes in the survey.
7.	<p>General Education Proposals.</p> <p>General Education Task Force Chair Fred Heck gave an update to the Senate. This was not a formal proposal which required a vote. Heck discussed the new proposal that a General Education Coordinator would be a faculty position with full release time instead of administrative, in order to allow them to understand the Ferris culture. There were questions about the role of a portfolio and whether or not the changes on pages 4 and 12 were consistent to what was agreed to in the October 1, 2013 Senate meeting. Senator Dakkuri asked if there were plans to vote on the revised position description and Heck said it had not yet been finished. Senator Schmidt noted that the October approval was one step in the process and he regretted a prior commitment that forced him to miss that meeting. He wanted to point out that the term “prescriptive” had a pejorative connotation for those programs because of their own accreditation requirements.</p>
8.	<p>Announcements</p> <p>A. President Eisler thanked the General Education Task Force, the Vice-President for Student Affairs search committee and enrollment task force for their hard work. He said that he continues to work in Lansing on improving errors in performance metrics and to encourage capital improvement projects even though there have been no hearings. Our current priorities are renovations which will improve automotive, welding and our machine tooling facilities. Senator Bacon asked about concerns raised with liability and dual enrollment at an enrollment task force meeting. President Eisler said that they would be reviewed but there was a difference between our dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs. Senator Tower asked for more information about the performance metrics. President Eisler said that it related to how we were classified under Carnegie classifications.</p> <p>B. Provost Erickson gave an update on the strategic planning process. He also noted they were working on an internal search for the Dean of Engineering Technology and a new Associate Vice-Provost for Online and Instructional Technology. He also thanked Michelle Johnston for her service as Dean of College of Education and Human Services and said he is talking with the college to review their structural model. Senator Cook asked if the new Associate Vice Provost was going to create a separate online college. Erickson said that was not the intention. Senator Hanna asked about the number of candidates, whether or not they were all internal and how the committee would be structured? Erickson did not have the number of candidates but the search committee would have a representative from each school and someone who was not part of the last search committee.</p> <p>C. President Thapa noted the official response to last year’s Academic Program Review has been received and will be sent to the Senate.</p>
9.	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>A. Senator Klatt asked why a proposal for an increase in the Faculty Research Committee budget had not been put on the agenda. Secretary Isler noted this was part of a larger proposal the committee chair was working on as noted in the Presidents report and that overall proposal will come to the Senate when it is finished.</p> <p>B. Senator Potter noted the seconded due date for Professional Development grants was November 22nd and encouraged faculty to apply.</p>
10.	Senator Dakkuri moved to close the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Senator Marion seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Isler
Secretary