

## Archive

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**From:** Sandy C Gholston  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2015 2:29 PM  
**To:** Archive  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: Ferris Board of Trustees Meetings Recaps (Oct. 8)

Included below are two press releases highlighting today's Ferris State University Board of Trustees meetings at the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building in Grand Rapids, Mich. Trustees approved 2016-17 room and board rates, new academic degree programs as well as several construction/renovation projects on the Big Rapids, Mich. campus. Any media requests regarding this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.

Read the administration and finance release, here:  
<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2015/october/trustees2.htm>

Read the academic affairs/student affairs release, here:  
<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2015/october/trustees1.htm>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Oct. 8, 2015

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### **Board Approves New Academic Degree Programs at Regular Meeting**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Ferris State University's Board of Trustees approved two new academic degrees at its regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building in Grand Rapids.

The trustees approved a new Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy, as proposed by the College of Health Professions, and a redesigned Insurance and Risk Management degree for the College of Business.

The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degree is designed to complement the current associate degree in Respiratory Therapy. The state of Michigan has 13 schools that offer the associate degree, but none currently offer the baccalaureate program. The degree will feature two areas of specialization: advanced clinical practice and leadership. Working professionals who have completed the associate degree would be prime candidates for the new bachelor's program. The Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care has set a year 2020 goal to require a baccalaureate degree for entry into the profession. Current national standards for examination require a minimum of an associate degree in order for a student to obtain Certified Respiratory Therapist or Registered Respiratory Therapist credentials.

"This new degree will provide a seamless transition for students who complete or have completed our associate degree program prior to 2020, and it will be an already established degree once the 2020 standard goes into effect," said Paul Blake, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Curriculum has been reviewed and recommended by the University Curriculum Committee, the Academic Senate, Blake and President David Eisler. The university's plan is to begin to enroll students at the start of the Spring 2016 semester.

The redesigned Insurance and Risk Management degree will offer a major, minor and certificate programs. The new degree will accomplish several key goals, including: a rebranding effort that includes a name change to Risk Management and Insurance to emphasize risk management, alignment of curriculum with professional designations, elimination of redundancy in course content and program revision that will fill significant content gaps, enhancement of the scope of the program to better appeal to students with specialized interests, and an effort to strengthen program differentiation and distinctiveness.

Currently, Ferris is the only public university in the Lower Peninsula that offers a risk management and insurance program. The program dates back to 1935.

The university's goal is to implement the program beginning in Spring 2016.

Included among action items, the trustees approved:

- two new appointments to the boards of directors of Ferris-authorized charter school academies;
- ratification of 11 exigent appointments of members of the boards of directors of three Ferris-authorized charter school academies: Great Lakes Anchor Academy, of Clinton Twp.; Schools for the Future of Detroit, in Detroit; and Voyageur Academy, of Detroit; and
- the addition of pre-kindergarten for Huron Academy, of Roseville; a name change of Consortium College Preparatory High School, in Detroit, to Voyageur College Prep High School; the merger of Schools for the Future of Detroit and Detroit Delta Preparatory Academy for Social Justice, both based in Detroit; and termination of the charter contract with Great Lakes Anchor Academy.

The trustees are chair Paul E. Boyer, of Ada; vice chair Erin R. Brown, of East Lansing; secretary Lori Gwizdala, of Bay City; immediate past chair Gary L. Granger, of Byron Center; Alisha M. Baker, of Mount Clemens; Ana L. Ramirez-Saenz, of Rockford; Rupesh K. Srivastava, of Wixom; and Arthur L. Tebo, of Walloon Lake.

The next regular meeting of the trustees is Friday, Dec. 18 in Big Rapids. Committee meetings begin at 3 p.m. followed by the full board meeting at 4 p.m.

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**Trustees Approve Construction Projects; 2016-17 Room and Board Rates**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Ferris State University’s Board of Trustees approved several construction-related projects at its regular meeting on Thursday, Oct. 8 in the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building in Grand Rapids.

Trustees approved the expansion of West Campus Apartments, an on-campus townhouse complex that was originally constructed in 1995. As part of its ongoing effort to address current and future housing for students, university officials identified a need to add new beds to its housing stock. The university plans to add approximately 60 new beds through the completion of two new buildings in the Finch Court neighborhood.

The plan is to have the additional housing open for occupancy by August 2016.

Trustees also approved pre-construction and professional services for a project that will switch the locations of the intercollegiate soccer field and the west campus intramural fields. The new location for the intercollegiate soccer field will give the varsity women’s soccer team a facility that meets the physical requirements to host post-season competition. Relocation of the intramural fields to an area near the Student Recreation Center will provide students a location that has greater accessibility, does not require students to cross busy streets and that minimizes safety concerns. The project could begin as early as the summer of 2016 and will likely occur in phases through 2018 to minimize disruption to the soccer and intramural programs.

Professional design, construction and other services for the Student Recreation Center mechanical systems upgrade project were approved by trustees. Mechanical systems and associated piping will be relocated to areas that are not sensitive to moisture. Some additional areas of the SRC may be air-conditioned as part of this project.

In other action, the board approved a recommended 2015-16 operating budget of \$247 million, which includes a projected \$51.2 million from the state. This budget takes into account recent state appropriations decisions that include one-time funding to offset this year’s Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System payment increases.

Additionally, the trustees approved an updated and final housing and dining services budget of \$33.6 million for a final \$213.5 million general fund budget.

The board approved room and board rates for the 2016-17 academic year. The rates reflect increased food costs, and increased labor and minimum wage costs. Individual room and board rates vary based on the type of room and meal plan selected. The rates reflect a 2.3-percent general increase over 2015-16.

Trustees approved the submission of one capital outlay request, in addition to a five-year capital planning document, to the state of Michigan. The university prioritized the Swan Building Annex renovation project. Renovation for the \$30 million project is expected to begin in November.

Jack Roberts, of Traverse City, Mich., was approved by trustees as a member of The Ferris Foundation Board of Directors. Roberts is President and CEO of Peak Positions, a search engine optimization company based in Traverse City. Peak Positions is rated one of the Top 20 SEO Companies worldwide.

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