

New business in Academic Senate



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Special Editions Editor

Members of the Academic Senate joined the meeting virtually to engage in spirited discourse over new policy changes.

Academic senators discussed certificate requirements and department representation in monthly meeting

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

The Academic Senate voted on and approved three proposals in a collaborative meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

With 32 senators in attendance, the virtual meeting's "new business" covered recommended changes to pre-pharmacy admission requirements, certificate policy revision and general education sub-committees.

"This kind of activity doesn't happen without mutual respect and mutual trust," Senate President Sandra Alspach said as the meeting began. "Our Academic Senate processes are built on a foundation of shared governance."

The pre-pharmacy program update was first in line for senate action. As summarized by University Curriculum Committee chairman Rusty Leonard, this update was proposed by Colleen Partigianoni and David Frank of the physical science department.

"We came up with something that basically serves as a blueprint for students that want to enter the Ferris College of Pharmacy," Frank said.

With recent changes in the pre-pharmacy program's admissions requirements, Partigianoni and Frank believed some previously required courses were no longer necessary.

"They need to align the pre-pharm program with those new standards. There are some courses that have been deleted, but

there's no new courses that are coming through," Leonard said.

The proposal did not pass without discourse. Senator Scott Heron from the biological sciences department raised concerns about how the changes in pre-pharmacy would affect students in the Tuition Incentive Program.

"There was significant concerns with the [Registrar, Academic Affairs and MyDegree] committee about some of the changes and the implications of the changes," Heron said. "Such as the credit load expectation moving from a three-year to a two-year program, the impacts on TIP students and the disproportionate impact that that was having on students that are financially disadvantaged."

The Pre-Pharmacy Update Proposal passed with a a vote of 59% in support, 16% not supporting and 24% abstaining.

Leonard and Frank both responded to various concerns from academic senators, ensuring the group that students in pre-pharmacy would have access to other sources of financial aid.

"This is a majority, so I'll call it support," Alspach said after the first vote. "But you notice that we have an array of opinions about this one. I think that discussion is healthy."

Next, Leonard presented a policy revision proposal, which aims to place a maximum of 18 credit hours on an academic certificate in the UCC manual.

Political science professor David Takitaki asked his fellow senators if the proposal should explicitly state that exceptions to this rule may be considered for analysis approval. When no senator spoke up to second this notion, it was dropped.

"Writing the language into every policy that you can appeal for an exception seems to me to violate the nature of what a policy is," Alspach said.

The policy revision proposal passed as written with a "technical majority" of 53%.

The third and final proposal was presented by General Education Director Victor Piercey and prompted limited discussion.

"The goal is to make sure that the College of Education and Human Services has an adequate opportunity for representation on subcommittees," Piercey said.

In Piercey's "TLDR," he explains that this representation would be achieved by placing at large members of CASE on each department's subcommittee.

Alspach described this proposal as a desire for balanced voices.

"You've got the experts in the field at the table, but they are not the only voices being heard. Other voices are being heard as well," Alspach said.

The general education subcommittees proposal passed with 81% approval.

After senate approval, these recommendations are moved from Academic Affairs, to the President's Council and then they go to the Legal General Council. If approval

continues, the recommendations are subject to public review for 30 days.

The meeting concluded with announcements on behalf of the administration and Student Government, beginning with President David Eisler.

"Always a pleasure to be with the Academic Senate, and I really appreciate the care that you take in your deliberations," Eisler said.

In his announcement, Eisler discussed a "disappointing" lack of higher education proposals at Gov. Whitmer's 2022 State of the State address.

He then encouraged the academic senators to attend the upcoming Legislative Day event in Lansing, as well as this year's Festival of the Arts.

Student Government President Paige Abromaitis addressed the senate with plans for the 2022 Big Event. It will take place on April 9, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Abromaitis enjoys attending Academic Senate meetings on behalf of Student Government.

"[At] times there's heated discussion and other times [there] isn't. But it's really great to know that we have this senate because, you know, the professors want what's best for us," Abromaitis said.

The Academic Senate will continue their collaboration and deliberations via Zoom on March 1.

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NEWS

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Student Government semester overview

Presidential election dates announced during Tuesday's meeting



Photo by: Angie Rosenthal | Torch Photographer

Student Government meets every Tuesday in the Founders' Room lead by President Paige Abromaitis.

Rebecca VanderKooi
Opinions Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, Student Government held a general assembly meeting and announced the dates for the upcoming presidential election.

On March 3, applications and letters of intent are due for all presidential candidates. Active campaigning will go from March 14 to April 4. Then, from March 22 to April 4, voting will take place on Bulldog Connect. The new president will be inaugurated on April 12.

Maelynn Huhn, the director of internal assessment, explained that a big part of her position is helping to oversee the election.

"My role within the presidential election is to oversee everything, accept applications, review applications, set up the debate and help set dates for everything," Huhn said.

The election isn't the only thing to look forward to this semester. Current Student Government President Paige Abromaitis noted that, while there are many exciting things happening this semester, she is most excited for the Big Event.

"The Big Event is our philanthropy

event; it's where we give back to the community of Big Rapids. So, basically we have a bunch of student volunteers sign up, and then they go help a bunch of houses who need their leaves raked, or their fence painted or the windows washed," Abromaitis said.

Another upcoming Student Government event is a gala. Meredith Whitmer, Student Government's administrative assistant, explained that the gala, which is typically an annual event, hasn't happened since COVID-19 began.

"We haven't been able to do it the last two years, so we're excited to get that going again for everyone in Student Government," Whitmer said.

Student Government has general assembly meetings every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Founders Room at the University Center.

Abromaitis explained that it's a great way to represent an RSO or college, and it helps keep RSO's in the loop in regards to what's happening on campus.

"If there is anyone that's looking to try and get more involved on campus... or get their RSO's name out there, Student Government is the place to come," Abromaitis said.

Unsung winter heroes

What snow maintenance at Ferris entails

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

In frigid winter weather, Ferris relies on its grounds crew to keep students safe while walking to class.

While temperatures this winter reach freezing, the snowfall has not been as bad as years past. In 2019, the polar vortex sent arctic air down into the Midwest, bringing subzero temperatures to west Michigan, according to Channel 3 News.

"This year's weather has been pretty crazy, and it's been really cold," architectural technology sophomore Logan Koutz said. "But I don't think we ever had it bad enough to cancel."

In January of 2019, classes were canceled for three days due to extreme cold and heavy snowfall, and temperatures reached minus 15 degrees, per Channel 3 news.

According to Ferris' grounds supervisor Scott Wilcox, when snowstorms come to Big Rapids, the grounds crew pretreats all roads and sidewalks. Pre-treatment consists of setting salt on roads and sidewalks before snowfall. This allows for hassle-free, clean plowing.

When it comes to salt, it only functions in temperatures up 10 degrees above zero, according to Wilcox. On colder days on campus, the salt does not melt the ice on sidewalks. This then leads to salt build-up on student's shoes and a problem for the custodial staff.

"I think the sidewalks have been taken pretty good care of," Koutz said.

When it comes to snow removal, the ground crews' highest priorities are sidewalks and barrier-free ADA routes.

According to Ferris' director of plant operations Mark Eichenberg, anyone with a disability can fill out a form at Ferris' education and disability services. This form allows the disability services to work with maintenance to have the student's route to class be snow and ice-free.

For more information, visit Ferris' Educational & Career Counseling and Disabilities Services.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

While removing snow, the grounds crew focuses on sidewalks and paths first so they remain totally accessible to all.

- ON THE RECORD -

A roundup of this week's crime at Ferris State University

You did this for what?

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Sir, there is no party here

Jan. 24, 10:03 p.m. - A female student was with her boyfriend when an unknown man entered her unit at West Campus Apartments. The occupants confronted the intruder, and he left on his own accord. Police caught up with the suspect, who claimed to be confused and looking for a party.

Brophy break-in

Jan. 25, 6:49 p.m. - An intoxicated male student attempted to break into a female students dorm room in Brophy hall. He partially made it into the room, but she managed to keep him out until police came and arrested him.

Swiper in fact swiped

Jan. 27, 1:08 p.m. - A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked in commuter lot 28. The case was closed as there were no leads.

Recording in progress

Jan. 31, 1:58 p.m. - A non-student came onto campus and recorded videos of female

students. The suspect was escorted off and trespassed from campus.

Cash intercepted

Feb. 2, 8:59 a.m. - The university generated a refund check for a student, but the check was intercepted and cashed without their consent. The case remains open and under investigation.

Slow down, speedracer

Feb. 4, 3:29 p.m. - A vehicle was stopped on Ferris Dr. for driving 56 MPH in the 25 MPH zone. The driver was cited.

Swiper swiped again

Feb. 5, 11:43 a.m. - A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked in commuter lot 28. The case was closed as there were no leads.

You did this for what?

Feb. 5, 3:18 p.m. - Male student took a female student's coat and refused to return it to her. Police were called and the coat was returned.



MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

LANSING - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is set to propose \$3 billion in extra pay for a variety of front-line workers alongside her 2023 budget recommendation.

This would include \$500 million in one-time "hero pay" benefits for an undefined group of front-line workers, \$50 million worth of similar payments to police and correctional officers, fire fighters and first responders, and \$1.65 billion for teachers and school staff retention according to a report from the Detroit Free Press.

This plan also included \$265 million for raises for direct care workers and another \$200 million for raises for state employees.

"Through a once-in-a-century pandemic, we saw Michiganders who serve in law enforcement and frontline workers in so many different kinds of businesses and facilities step up,"

Gov. Whitmer said in a statement. "Countless workers ... made heroic sacrifices, putting their own health and safety on the line to ensure the rest of us were safe and had the supplies we needed to care for our families. They had our backs. We should have theirs."

Most of the payments would likely be one-time disbursements as the money supporting this plan is mostly coming from federal COVID-19 relief funds.

Though this is just her recommendation, the final budget is still up to state Legislature to cement.

The governor's team is scheduled to present these budget ideas in a joint hearing of the House and Senate appropriations committees on Wednesday.



GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Tension between NATO and Russia are at the highest they have been in years as the US and Europe attempt to deter a potential invasion of Ukraine.

On Monday, several meetings were held around the world in support of these efforts.

French President Emmanuel Macron met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in hopes to reach resolution between NATO and the Russian government. Macron will continue his tour with a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Ukrainian capital.

President Biden also had related meetings Monday. He met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz after which he vowed that "If Russia invades, that means tanks or troops crossing the border of Ukraine again, there will be no longer Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it."

Nord Stream 2 is an energy pipeline that would deliver Russian gas to Europe.

It is unclear at this time how Biden would pull such a thing off as the decisions revolving around that pipeline sit in German control, but when pressed on the issue, Biden said to a journalist "I promise you, we'll be able to do it."

On the other side of the issue, Putin has accused Western nations of aggression rather than Russia citing movements of various countries troops and weaponry to the edges of Eastern Europe and that if former Soviet states like Ukraine and Georgia join NATO, it would pose a threat of security to Russia.

"It's not us moving toward NATO," he said at a news conference. "It's NATO moving toward us."

Putin suggested that his nation could find ground, but also stated he wouldn't bend on "core security demands".



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Expanding horizons in the justice system

Members of the Ferris community speak on the emerging role of social work in criminal justice

Jessica Oakes

Special Editions Editor

With a nationwide push to include social workers in emergency responding, members of Ferris' social work and criminal justice programs aim to "expand horizons" in the justice system.

Carolyn Sutherby, assistant professor of social work, explained that social workers having a place in the legal system is not brand new. As more police departments, including that of Lansing and Livonia, add social workers to their force, the role may be expanding.

"There's a lot of really innovative, creative, evidence-based practices that are being implemented across the country and then locally for us in Michigan as well," Sutherby said.

Sutherby worked in prison and jail settings for a decade, finding a specific interest in behavioral health and justice. Since arriving at Ferris in 2020, she has used her desire to partner social work with criminal justice in the culmination of a new course, Social Work 390.

The goal of this course, developed by both Sutherby and fellow associate professor of social work Rita Walters, reflects Sutherby's original research on incarceration prevention.

"Most of my research and direct practices involved avoiding incarceration in the beginning," Sutherby said. "So, more prevention sort of work in providing treatment to folks that are struggling with addiction and mental health issues."

Sutherby applies this proactive thought process to students joining the workforce.



Carolyn Sutherby created a new class, Social Work 390, in an attempt to join social work and criminal justice to aid in incarceration prevention.

"One of the issues is trying to find a way to provide some education and some theory and practice for students prior to entering the professional field. This seemed like a gap that could be filled," Sutherby said.

Sutherby will be presenting on the course at this year's HatchEd, Ferris' higher education innovation conference. She hopes to spread the word and encourage criminal justice and social work students to enroll.

Sophomore Allissa Ash is one student

whose passion for criminal justice led her to a social work major.

After beginning her studies in Ferris' nationally ranked criminal justice program, Ash realized that she would feel more capable of helping those in need as a social worker.

"You can work on a macro level where you advocate for better policies and things like that. So, it's more of the political atmosphere," Ash said.

For years, Ash has looked forward to working in and improving the justice system.

"I've always been super passionate about the criminal justice system, mostly about the reform of it... I was super interested in more fixing the criminal justice system, than just spewing out the same stuff that happens every year," Ash said.

Ash believes that justice system reform should come with social workers and police officers working in tandem. She thinks that this could lighten the "burden" placed on police officers, potentially preventing fatal mistakes.

Continuing her time at Ferris as a social work student with a criminal justice minor, Ash feels like her options for future careers are open.

"It's always good to expand your horizons, and that's more of the reason why I chose social work," Ash said. "I can still work in a prison or work with police officers and things like that. So, I just want people to know that you don't have to limit yourself in what you do."

Assistant professor of criminal justice Michael Mendenhall says it is beneficial for students in both programs to "branch out."

Though he believes that the combination of these two fields runs deeper than taking a few college courses, he would love to have all social work students learn about the system through his introduction to criminal justice class.

Mendenhall explained that directly incorporating social workers into emergency roles alongside police officers is still in its infancy. He recommends watching the results from the departments in Livonia and Lansing and weighing the pros and cons after more time goes by.



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Students like Allissa Ash have chosen to major in social work and minor in criminal justice so they have more career opportunities after graduation.

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Entertaining her time at Ferris



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Madison MacDowell performed “What’s Up?” by 4 Non Blonds on her guitar at open mic night, sponsored by Entertainment Unlimited.

Madison MacDowell shows off her talent at Open Mic Night at the University Center

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

A small city with big charm is where Madison MacDowell wanted to be while studying entertainment.

MacDowell is currently a senior majoring in music and entertainment business. This program prepares students to enter the entertainment world with a knowledge and understanding of the industry.

Initially, MacDowell was conflicted about what she wanted to major in. She wanted to go into business, but she also wanted to go into the music industry.

After hearing about the music and entertainment business program from a friend during high school, MacDowell looked into Ferris with the hopes of being able to combine both of her passions.

“I really liked the size. I come from a really small town, and the idea of living in a city would kind of appeal to me,” MacDowell said. “The size of the campus and how big Big Rapids was, and it was also close to Grand Rapids. So, the fact that it was smaller actually appealed to me, which is weird. I never thought I’d say that.”

During her first year at Ferris, MacDowell joined Entertainment Unlimited on the

advice of her program advisor. She has remained a part of the RSO ever since. Now, in her third and final year, she serves as president.

During her term, EU has hosted events, such as an open mic night, a circus side-show and stuff-a-plush. These were all big events that required lots of preparation and planning.

MacDowell understands the responsibility of preparing for big events, and she was able to put that knowledge to the test when she was put in charge of the student homecoming committee. Her main focus was planning the homecoming comedian, Whitney Cummings.

According to MacDowell, the entire process of getting Cummings to Ferris was stressful.

“It was a great experience,” MacDowell said. “Getting to understand how that works, [learning] about how you book a high-level comedian [and] getting to talk with her agents and her managers. On the day of the show, she texted in this big group chat that we had with her managers [and asked] who she could call. I said, ‘go ahead and give me a call,’ and she said she couldn’t figure out how to get in. I was like, ‘oh, god, here we go.’ It’s like ten minutes before showtime, and I’m trying not to freak out, but she made

it here. We had a great time.”

While MacDowell said her time as the homecoming ambassador was a stressful yet great experience, others saw the event as a success due to her planning.

Nick Campau, the Associate Dean of Student Life, believes hosting the comedian was a successful program MacDowell undertook. He was appreciative of all the work she had done as the homecoming intern.

“For fall 2021, we really wanted to elevate a female’s voice,” Campau said. “Knowing that women are so underrepresented in comedy and really sometimes struggle to find a platform that doesn’t involve sexualization. Madison was able to bring in Whitney Cummings, and not only were we able to bring in top talent, but we’re also really able to keep a mind on underrepresented voices and finding that place that we can help elevate on campus.”

Not only was MacDowell able to successfully run programs no matter their size, but she has been able to successfully include others in the learning process. She elevates other’s voices and opinions in decisions and ideas when she is planning programs.

Nick Smith, the Center for Student Involvement’s Coordinator of Activities

and the EU supervisor, said what makes MacDowell a great president is that she listens to others.

“She’s not afraid to ask questions,” Smith said. “She goes out to seek other people’s opinions too. Being in charge of programming, you are programming for a lot of people. You want to do as much research [and] find out as much as you can [in order] to bring as much of a variety to reach as wide an audience as possible.”

Smith said MacDowell is always thinking about the student’s best interests when it comes to planning events because she wants to reach as diverse an audience as possible.

From musicians and comedians to carnivals and a spring fling, the EU is preparing to host diverse and cool events that students can attend, according to MacDowell.

As her final semester is upon her, MacDowell encourages students to go out onto campus and make connections.

“I hear so many people say, ‘oh, there’s nothing to do on campus,’ or, ‘Ferris has nothing for me,’” MacDowell said. “We have over 200 RSOs, even as much as I would like everyone to come out and join EU, it might not be for everyone. But there is an RSO for everyone.”

A single's guide to Valentine's



Not having a significant other doesn't mean you can't enjoy Valentine's Day



Charlie Buckel
Freelance Reporter

When one thinks of Valentine's Day, they often picture a romantic day spent with their significant other, going out on a date, exchanging gifts and being in love. For those who are single, it can often be a regular day overshadowed by the fact that they don't have someone to share it with.

That doesn't have to be the case, though.

Valentine's is all about love, and that includes showing love to yourself. Here are some ways to do that.

Treat yourself to a gift

One of the staples of Valentine's Day is giving gifts to the one you love. Show yourself some love and buy yourself a gift this year. This can be anything, from buying yourself a box of chocolates, to going all out and getting yourself something expensive. Is there a pair of shoes that you've had your eye on? A new video game? Treat yourself and buy the thing that you know would make you happy.

Take yourself out to dinner for a nice meal

Show some love to yourself on Valentine's Day by taking yourself out for one of your favorite meals. Without the pressure of worrying about what someone else may want to eat, you get to choose exactly where you want to go and what you want to eat. Plus, you don't have to worry about dressing up for a date. Simply going out by yourself for a nice meal is a great way to show yourself a good time.

Do one of your favorite activities

Couples on Valentine's are often going out and doing a myriad of activities together. In that spirit, do something that you love to do this Valentine's Day. If you love going to the movies, go see something in the theaters and buy yourself a large popcorn and a drink that you don't need to share with a date. If you would prefer to stay in instead, curl up with a good book, play a favorite video game or binge a show that you love. When you're doing something that you love and that makes you happy, then you're showing yourself a little love and making yourself happy on Valentine's Day.

Spend some time with other loved ones

Just because you don't have a significant other doesn't mean you have to spend Valentine's Day alone. Spending time with the people you love platonically is a great way to capture the spirit of the day.

Family and friends can be your closest loved ones, and just being with them can often make you feel good. Another bonus that comes with spending time with your platonic loved ones is that you can do the previously listed items with them.

If you're the kind of person that loves giving others a gift, you can buy something for your friends and family. You could also enjoy a great meal with each other, go bowling together or spend the night playing board games. As long as you are enjoying the time with your loved ones, your Valentine's Day is a success.

Not having a romantic partner on Valentine's Day does not have to be the end all be all for single people. There are so many ways to not only show yourself love, but also show others that you love them. If you do anything that makes you or someone else feel loved on Valentine's Day, then you have done Valentine's Day right.

Valentine's Day

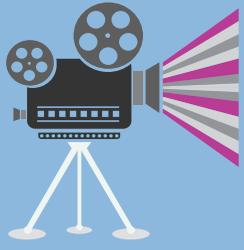


What's on the menu?

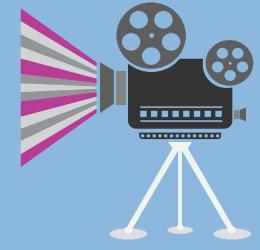
- World's Fusion: Shrimp & Steak Fries
- Woody's Grill: Steak, baked potato, broccoli and mushrooms
- Cookie decorating table

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Media Minute



“The Book of Boba Fett” expands the Star Wars universe in ways that set up an exciting future

Jeremy Wolfe
Freelance Reporter

This article contains spoilers for the Disney Plus Series “The Book of Boba Fett.”

When Boba Fett made his film debut in the Star Wars film “The Empire Strikes Back,” his status as an iconic, mainstream character came pretty much immediately. From being everywhere on merchandise, to being the subject of intense fan speculation following his exit from the film series in “Return of the Jedi,” many wondered if Boba Fett would ever return to live-action, or if he truly did survive his fall into the Sarlacc pit.

With this new world of television streaming, Disney took it upon themselves to reintroduce the character to the Star Wars universe, revealing in their series “The Mandalorian” that he did in fact survive. With the new show titled “Book of Boba Fett,” he will be getting a show entirely about his life after this event and what motivates him as a character. From

here, things get a bit more interesting for Star Wars, as this is a catalyst to move the entire franchise forward.

The first episodes of the show center around Fett’s survival and his induction into a tribe of Tusken Raiders from the planet Tatooine. It also depicts how these events changed him from a cold-hearted bounty hunter to a reserved and family-oriented man who is seeking belonging and unity in an underground that puts the needs of the individual above the group.

This change was met with criticism, but in these episodes, you really get a sense of who Fett is. The show does this in ways that the original films didn’t. It makes make him a three-dimensional character with a goal in mind, rather than a stooge who exits just as he is introduced.

However, this early plot, while a through-line for the whole series, has almost taken a back seat in the recent episodes. Recently, the show brought in characters from “The Mandalorian.” Chief among them is the titular Mandalorian, who appears

along with Grogu, affectionately known as Baby Yoda. Other cameos include Ahsoka Tano, Luke Skywalker, and, in a twist in the most recent episode, the reintroduction of “Clone Wars” bounty hunter Cad Bane. All of these appearances serve to introduce new plot threads or tie up old ones that have been around for years.

Each of these characters brought something important to the show. The Mandalorian’s main motivation is to return to the planet Mandalore in an attempt to regain his status and reunite the scattered tribes, while Grogu learns the ways of the Jedi with Skywalker. Tano goes on her own mission after visiting the two characters that will serve as a narrative set-up for her own television show, and Bane returns to serve as Fett’s main rival and also to settle his own personal score with Fett.

The two had previously met in the “Clone Wars” show, and their partnership ended in a duel that saw Bane shot in the head and requiring

a prosthetic to survive.

These threads all set up a greater narrative in the streaming universe of Star Wars, and resolutions to these plots will come in time, as will new shows and narratives. So far, the reception has been positive. The incorporation of characters from different shows, along with the confirmation of a crossover event in the future, gives the impression that Star Wars is moving forward, while also making characters, both old and new, more fleshed out, which is something that many would say was missing from the recent Star Wars films.

This crossover resembled one of Marvel’s formulas. The constant usage of references and bringing back old characters gives a sense of permanence and provides fans with something to eagerly anticipate. “The Book of Boba Fett” takes this concept and polishes it to a high degree. In doing so, it sets up the future of Star Wars in a way that fans of old and new content can appreciate and enjoy.

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OPINIONS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Looking to the future

By Brendan Sanders

As a second-semester college senior, I have been faced with an uncertain reality, I don't know where I will be after graduation in May.

Every year of my life, I have always known that I have a few months off before I have to begin focusing on school for the next academic year.

For the first time, I say that I will "maybe" do this or "maybe" do that. However, I haven't been able to find what I will "definitely" be doing.

After the first week of May, I will have completed my last year of school, unless I want to enross myself in a Master's degree. Hence the reason I'm on the hunt for a job and trying to figure out how I can make a living. I feel like I'm trying to figure out the rest of my life.

This is scary when I look at the facts. I will be joining a workforce alongside millions of fellow young Americans, many as equally as eager as I am to make a living for ourselves.

While there are many jobs out there, I want to find a career in my field of study, which can be challenging to accomplish.

I've taken a few steps to land a job by attending job fairs in Big Rapids and Central Michigan. Yet, pushing more, I accepted an invitation to compete in a National Collegiate Sports Selling Competition.

As I am writing this, I am sitting in Atlanta trying to compete with people who have been studying marketing and sales for their entire collegiate careers. I have a degree in communication and journalism, and i'm just trying to fit in.

Of course, there is a fear of being walked all over, but taking every opportunity to find

a dream career is the entire point of going to college. People ask me if I'm happy with going to Ferris State University, and I usually say yes. Why? Because I get the opportunity to live out opportunities that I dreamed about as a kid. I've gotten to tell stories and interview with professional sports teams while trying to land a job. I don't think I would have gotten these opportunities anywhere else.

Yet, in the back of my head, the thought remains that it won't be enough. No matter how hard I work, my skills won't be enough to make a meaningful impact or even make a decent living. I want to be happy. I want to provide for my family.

So maybe, just maybe, the diversification of skills that I have will allow me to get a decent living right out of college. Perhaps I can find a job that can keep me happy. Maybe I can live out my dream.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Photo from: |Brody Keiser

Brody Keiser

I am a junior in the sports communication program with a minor in multimedia journalism and a content specialty in sports science.

I have loved sports my whole life. Ever since I was a kid, I've somehow been involved with sports. I played baseball and basketball all through school, and now I play basketball and flag football through intramurals. I also enjoy golfing and weightlifting.

Outside of my own athletic career, I love watching sports. I am a diehard Michigan State basketball fan, and I like Spartan football as well. However, I am more of an NFL follower than college football because I play fantasy football. Overall, I love watching and following all sports.

Outside of sports, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, especially my girlfriend. I love casual hangouts with friends or playing video games.

At Ferris, I currently work as the sports editor for the Torch. I worked as a sports reporter from January of 2020 to May of 2021. I am also the vice president of the Sports Careers RSO. In April 2021, I presented a year-long research project at the International Association of Communication and Sport national conference. I have helped organize a dodgeball and kickball tournament, as well as a poly-hockey game between the Area 5 Special Olympians and Ferris' hockey team.

My passion for journalism really started in college. All throughout high school I dreamed of being an orthopedic surgeon. I graduated top three in my high school class of 200 plus students, spoke at graduation and held myself to the highest standards. It wasn't until the time where I had to choose my major that I stopped wanting to be a surgeon.

I was always a strong writer, and my passion was sports. So I combined the two, started working for the Torch and realized I'd found my new passion.

My dream is to be the lead reporter for the New Orleans Saints. Because I pride myself on being persistent and driven, I have every expectation of making it there one day.

Disney's Encanto

Luisa is the best Disney character of all time

Cassidy Jessup
Multimedia Editor

Set in Columbia, Encanto features the Madrigal family, who have all been bestowed with some magical power. However, the only exception to the magical gifts is the beloved matriarch and head of the family, Abuela, and one of her granddaughters, Mirabel.

Directed by Jared Busch and Bryan Howard, Encanto has captured my heart and that of many others. Rebecca Rubin states in her Reuters article that Encanto “landed the best opening weekend for an animated film during the pandemic.”

The story follows Mirabel as she struggles to be the only family member without a gift, while the rest of the family use their gifts to benefit the town. Mirabel soon finds that her family isn't as perfect as they seem from the outside. Abuela's desire for each to “do their part” has left everyone with anxiety and uncer-

tainty as they try to conform to her standards.

Now, unlike Mirabel, her sister Luisa has a gift: strength. But she is the best Disney character for a simple reason: she's relatable. Luisa is a physically strong woman who doesn't conform to the standard “Disney princess” body type.

She still struggles to fit in, and “do her part” to help her family.

“Under the surface, I'm pretty sure I'm worthless if I can't be of service,” sings Luisa in “Surface Pressure,” one of Encanto's most catchy musical numbers.

Luisa's non-traditional muscles and her bulky frame have caused some controversy in the animation and media world. In an article by Jeff Wright in The Federalist, he clearly voices his opinion with the title: “Encanto's Luisa Is Way Too Beefy For A Woman.”

Wright goes on to say that Disney animators made a mistake by portraying Luisa as more masculine than feminine, ignoring

the significant number of the population that can relate.

Another tweet by @soapachu on Twitter claims that “Luisa merch is outselling Isabella merch by a significant factor. Turns out children relate harder to women who are strong, honest, flawed and interesting, [compared to] those who are just seen as beautiful.”

In my mind, it is about time that Disney shows a woman at a plus-size, even if she isn't the main character. Why can't a woman be strong and still be feminine? Women carry the weight of society's expectations every day, just like Luisa is expected to carry the weight of her family.

No wonder she's so relatable.

Encanto is a must-watch for anyone on Disney+ or to purchase at your local supermarket. Having received three Golden Globe nominations at the 79th ceremony and winning the Best Animated Feature Film, it is a valuable addition to any collection.



Photo by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

Why I canceled Spotify

Spotify under fire over ‘The Joe Rogan Experience’



Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

The Timeline

Spotify is making headlines again Monday as the music giant has doubled down on their podcast posterchild, Joe Rogan.

On Dec. 31, Rogan released episode 1757 of “The Joe Rogan Experience.” He was joined by controversial doctor Robert Malone, who was banned from various social media platforms for spreading misinformation about COVID-19.

Less than two weeks later, more than 270 various experts, ranging from medical professionals, scientists, researchers, professors, and graduate students, came together and signed a letter directed at Spotify demanding they do something about the episode and the podcast in general.

“By allowing the propagation of false and societally harmful assertions, Spotify is enabling its hosted media to damage public trust in scientific research and sow doubt in the credibility of data-driven guidance offered by medical professionals,” the letter read.

From there, artists and podcast hosts like Neil Young and Roxane Gay, respectively, removed their catalogs of content in protest of Spotify's complacency on the issue.

By the end of January, dozens of artists had pulled their catalogs from Spotify in protest, so Spotify conceded and decided to place content warnings on all podcasts discussing COVID-19. Rogan then posted a 10-minute apology video to his Instagram addressing the controversy.

“I'm just a person who sits down and talks to people and has conversations with them. Do I get things wrong? Absolutely. I get things wrong. But I try to correct them.” Rogan said.

If only the story stopped there.

Another video surfaced just four days after that apology, a compilation of clips from his show of him using racial slurs. More than 100 episodes of the show were removed from Spotify at Rogan's request, according to Daniel Ek during the Spotify Q4 earnings call.

Rogan issued another apology via Instagram, citing he hasn't used the word in years, and he now knows he shouldn't. Spotify then issued a memo to their employees apologizing for the continued impacts of the controversy, they also doubled down on keeping Rogan. “I want to make one point very clear – I do not believe that silencing Joe is the answer,” Ek finished the statement.

The Problem:

The reason I canceled my Spotify subscription is simple. I do not believe that Joe Rogan should have unlimited, seemingly unsupervised access to Spotify's 400 million monthly active listeners.

We are a month into year three of the pandemic. At this point, I am just violently sick of the misinformation that directly contributes to the continued skepticism that keeps it alive. With 11 million monthly listeners, Rogan must prepare for his episodes regarding COVID-19 and other sensitive topics.

I also take issue with Spotify's response to Rogan's use of racial slurs. The platform has an obligation not only to its hosts and their contracts but to its listeners and its staff, and the statement they released to their staff was messy. It read as if they were saying, “we know what he did was wrong, but we care more about our bottom line than you.”

As a consumer, I can speak with my dollar, and no longer will it go to Spotify. Not only do I believe they are in the wrong for continuing to give Rogan a platform, but also for their response to blatant racism. While I dislike the interface of Apple Music and will miss the developed casting and handoff features, I'm willing to deal with the mediocrity for my values.

SPORTS

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

New Bulldogs on the block

Ferris announces a star-studded roster of new recruits

Joe Nagy
Sports Reporter

A new batch of blue-chip recruits signed their commitment to play football at Ferris on Wednesday, Feb. 2. This includes a number of Division I steals.

Once again, the coaching staff has recruited what is to be one of the top classes in the country in an attempt to replicate the success of last year's recruiting class, which topped the nation in Division II, was ranked 174th overall and beat out 80 Division I schools.

"We want to target the guys that might be DI misses," DII National Coach of the Year Tony Annese said. "We're not recruiting DII guys, we're recruiting DI misses. Our coaching staff has been extraordinarily good at connecting with high school coaches and high school football players."

The 22 recruited student-athletes come from a multitude of areas across the state of Michigan. In West Michigan, the coaches secured players from talent rich programs such as Grand Haven, Coopersville, Rockford, Caledonia, Cedar Springs, Hudsonville, Muskegon and Grand Rapids. The Bulldogs widened their search on the east side of the mitten, welcoming players from the Detroit, Flint, Chelsea, River Rouge and Warren areas.

Additionally, the Bulldogs recruited a strong supply of talented players from the regions in Florida that produce skillful and athletic recruits.

"There is so much talent in Florida," Annese said.

The Floridians joining the team this year add to a number of players on the Bulldog roster from down south who helped contribute to the national championship. Current Bulldogs like Sydney McCloud, Alex Thomas and Marcus Taylor hail from Florida.

Just about each recruit aided their team-deep into the state playoffs, as well as earning a plethora of athletic achievements, including multiple all-state honorees, players of the week and talented two-way players.

Zak Ahern, Quarterback, Rockford

The Rockford native replenishes the Bulldog's quarterback room after Jared Bernhardt's last season. The 6'2", 205-pound, dual threat athlete led the Rams to an impressive 19-2 mark for his two seasons as the varsity starter. Ahern tallied 3,291 all-purpose yards, with 50 touchdowns in the 2021 season.

"His versatility and athleticism is really special, and we're very, very excited about Zak's future here," Annese said.

Posting a 40 inch vertical, Ahern's athletic ability is a valuable asset to offensive coordinations. He adds to the already deep talent the Bulldogs have under center with Mylik Mitchell and Evan Cummins.

Tim Allen, Defensive Line, Coopersville

The speedy and aggressive playmaker garnered attention from programs all over the state of Michigan. Recording 50 tackles his junior year, Allen is a dominant force on the defensive side of the ball.

He was a three sport athlete in high school, which gives the 225-pound, 6'3" Allen an impressive ability to potentially play on either side of the ball.

"We expect him to grow into a great defensive end here," Annese said.

Dayne Arnett, Offensive Line, Grand Haven

Arnett is one of several DI steals that the Bulldog staff was able to recruit. The big framed O-lineman can fill the gaps of the seniors that are leaving. In West Michigan, he was among the top prospects at his positions. He is a high-value player that will add to the rushing offense that the Bulldogs are known for.

It also helps that Annese has connections and relationships with high school coaches all throughout the state. Dayne's coach, Mike Farley, is one of them, and he helped Annese get his eyes on Arnett.

"Mike Farley is a good friend of mine at Grand Haven, and he just thinks the world of Dayne. He thinks Dayne's a tough guy, and he thinks that we got a steal," Annese said regarding the interest that Dayne had received from multiple Division I schools.

Jerome Baker, Linebacker, Southfield A&T

The southeast Michigander was regarded as one of his high school's biggest standouts on the football field. Baker shows an unmatched ability to read and react to the play in front of him, and he possesses incredible closeout speed.

"Very pleased with his potential. Big guy, very hard working, you know half the battle on defense is playing with great effort," Annese said.

James Cummins II, Wide Receiver, Flint Beecher

The versatile receiver shows potential for both sides of the ball. While setting records for receiving in his last season of high school football, he received very strong interest on the Division I level. This is another player that displays Ferris' coaching staff's ability to flip recruits to Big Rapids.

"I love the versatility [of] being 6'2" 200-pounds. Can he be a safety? Can he be a linebacker? Can he be a receiver? I mean all those things come into play," Annese said.

Andrew Devries, Offensive Line, Caledonia

One of the top offensive linemen in the state of Michigan. Devries already had ties with Ferris through his father, Eric, who played football for the Bulldogs, and his defensive coordinator, Whitney Bell, who also played for the football program.

Devries played a big role in his school's success this past fall, reaching the regional championship for the first time in a decade. He too shows versatility on both front sides of the ball, being 6'2" 270 pounds.

"We'll take a guy like Andrew Devries, whose tough as nails," Annese commented after talking about the possibility of Andrew's lack in size.

Almarco Fields, Offensive Line, Reeths-Puffer

Another addition to the Bulldog offensive line. Fields is a force at the line of scrimmage, being an anchor for their run-game, as well as tallying 31 tackles with four for a loss. His efforts on the field helped give the team a playoff berth his junior year in 2020.

The mountain of a man will join the Bulldogs this upcoming season. At 6'5" and 285 pounds, his strength and athleticism will open holes for the run game, which proved important for the team in many circumstances last season.

"At one point in time, he was a serious



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Head Coach Tony Annese addresses the media during National Signing Day.

heavyweight. He's really controlled his weight, and now just a beast in the weight room. He's knocking out 21 reps at 225 on the bench," Annese said.

Damari Foster, Defensive Back, Muskegon

The 5'11" speedster is able to create big plays with his legs on both sides of the ball. Scoring six times with 500 yards on 35 touches shows his ability with the ball. On defense, he had a career high 80 yard fumble recovery and seven picks his junior year.

"To be the M-Live Defensive Player of the Year in the Muskegon area, it's a big deal. So we're really excited to get Damari," Annese said.

Foster was a multi-year starter for the Big Reds, an impressive and almost unheard-of feat in the football program. This was a program that Annese is familiar with, as that was one of his stops before making his way to Ferris.

Cam Heiss, Offensive Line, Cedar Springs

Heiss was a key performer, as he brought a district title to the RedHawks his senior year, as well as aiding in another playoff berth the year prior. Being among the top prospects on the west side of Michigan, he was recognized by the Detroit Free Press as

an all-state honoree.

"He's long, so we think he's going to get big and strong. Being from Cedar Springs, you know, 30 miles down the road, that's incredible. So we're really excited about his potential," Annese commented.

Trenton Hill, Running Back, Chelsea

Hill led his Chelsea squad to an incredible comeback win in the state championship game. Finishing his senior campaign with 1,000 rushing yards, he too received a strong pull towards some Division I schools.

He also gained recognition by capturing a spot on the Ann Arbor Dream Team.

"Trenton scored 34 touchdowns, so I mean it kind of tells you something when you score 34 touchdowns in a year," Annese said.

Eric "EJ" Jackson, Defensive Back, Pinellas Park (Fla.)

One of the many players from the Sunshine State that will make the trip up to Big Rapids this upcoming fall. EJ not only shows strong abilities on the football field, but he also showed prowess in the classroom as well.

Football | see page 11

First place Bulldogs keep winning

Ferris extends winning streak to nine games with two more victories

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter
Sports Editor Brody Keiser contributed to this article

Ferris currently holds an 18-3 record, an unbeaten GLIAC record (15-0), they're first place in the GLIAC standings and they show no signs of slowing down.

With wins over Davenport on Thursday, Feb. 3, and Grand Valley on Saturday, Feb. 5. The Bulldogs extended their win streak to nine. They lead the GLIAC standings by six points over second place Michigan Tech.

In their game against Davenport, the Bulldogs took advantage of some huge dunks midway through the second half to gain momentum, and they never looked back after getting to a double-digit lead. They kept their foot on the gas and dominated on the offensive side.

It was a bad night from the three-point range for the Bulldogs, shooting just 4-23 (17.4%) on the game. But they dominated the paint, outscoring Davenport 56-34 in points, while shooting 54.5% from the floor. Also, they shot 15-20 (75%) at the free-throw line.

"We played through a poor shooting night from three," head Coach Andy Bronkema said. "We were able to do it in other areas, and I was proud of the guys for that."

Leading the way in scoring was Logan Ryan and Dorian Aluyi with 16 points, Walt Kelser with 15 points, Lee Higgins with 14 points and Ben Davidson provided 13 points off the bench.

With 27 assists, the Bulldogs shared the ball well. Leading the way was Kelser with six assists, Ethan Erickson with five assists and Higgins with four assists.

The Bulldogs' defensive game gave them opportunities to score. The team forced 19 turnovers and scored 23 points off turnovers, while getting 18 fast break points for the game. They came up with a lot of big stops down the stretch to secure the win.

"Play hard," Higgins said regarding what his team must do against Grand Valley on Saturday. "Come out [and] punch them in the mouth first; that's our mindset."

Against Grand Valley, the score was tied at 37 going into halftime. However, Ferris faced an eight point deficit with 17 minutes remaining in the second half, but they found a way to battle back and outscore the Lakers 46-43 in the second half to pull out a three point victory.

"That's what Wink Arena can feel like," Bronkema said. "When we got down and went on that run, this place exploded. We haven't heard that noise in a few years. That was the absolute key, along with our guys stepping up in the second half and rebounding like maniacs."

2,212 fans attended the game, the highest attendance to a game at Jim Wink Arena this season.

Ferris outrebounded the Lakers 38-35, collecting 12 offensive rebounds in the process. Aluyi led the way with nine boards.

Ryan and Aluyi each contributed 15 points, while Davidson and Higgins each had 12. Kelser pitched in 9 points (3-12 from the floor) through 26 minutes and four personal fouls. This was his lowest point total of the season and the only game where he did not reach double figures.

"I'm still proud of Walt for struggling through a tough game and foul trouble," Bronkema said. "We wouldn't have won those games before. Now we are, and that's a big deal."

The Bulldogs 24-29 from the free throw line, while Grand Valley shot 14-19 and also turned the ball over just six times compared to nine for Grand Valley.

"This is two games in a row that we had less turnovers, shot more free throws and got more offensive rebounds, and that's a really good formula," Bronkema said.

With just six games remaining on the schedule, including a matchup against second place Michigan Tech, the Bulldogs will look to keep ahold of first place in the GLIAC standings.

Ferris will be back in action Thursday, Feb. 10, at Lake Superior State at 7:30 p.m. before returning home to face Northwood Monday, Feb. 14.



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Ben Davidson goes up for a layup during Ferris's victory over Grand Valley.

Football

Continued from page 10

Catching 28 passes for 554 yards in 2021, he may be joining the team with hopes for the defensive side, but his versatility can lead him to help the Bulldogs in more ways than one.

"We're expecting him to get a little bit bigger and stronger and faster and also a little bit taller," Annese said. "[He] can play both sides of the ball, so all those skills that you're looking for in an athlete, EJ has."

Eddie Jewett IV, Kicker, Eaton Rapids

Jewett has displayed incredible accuracy from the 50 yard range, which led him to have invested interest from multiple highly talented institutions. He's one of the top specialists in the Mitten, and a great signing for the Bulldogs.

"Coach Schugars has been targeting Eddie for quite some time,... so, I say about Eddie is that he's probably the most loyal Bulldog we have," Annese said.

Chris Jonas, Defensive Back, Hawthorne (Fla.)

Jonas was a main performer for the Hornets squad. The team tallied a 10-1 overall record and a state championship appearance. He's a dynamic athlete with a great amount of breakout potential.

"Coach Tony Annese, my nephew, whose the DB coach. He graded Chris Jonas out as the number one safety on the whole list," Annese said in regards to Jonas' rank among the other safeties that were highly ranked in the state of Florida.

Charlie "CJ" Jones, Linebacker, Grand Rapids Christian

Jones was among the top 115 players in the state of Michigan, according to 247 sports. The 6'2", 215 pound force can plug up run schemes and read plays exceptionally well. A Division I steal who helped his

team achieve a seven win season.

"Don Fellows, a former head coach for Grand Rapids Christian who coached for me, he just said that CJ is a NFL talent, so that's great to hear," Annese said.

With CJ coming to the team, there's no better place for him to develop for the NFL than a school who has the most active players in the league amongst all of Division II.

Markee Jones, Defensive Lineman, River Rouge

A threat on both sides of the ball, the talented interior lineman helped his team rack up an average of 45 points a game. Markee is a chosen member to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-State Team.

"[If] you're playing for the River Rouge program, you know how to compete. You know how to do things the right way, and so we're very happy about him," Annese said.

Markel King, Slot Receiver, Palm Beach Central (Fla.)

King has competed at both the receiver and running back positions. He has garnered a total of 1,719 yards and 17 touchdowns while receiving. On the ground, he ran for 1,028 yards on 55 carries for 10 scores. The Sun Sentinel First Team honoree can bring a fresh set of legs to the Bulldog offense.

"We love guys like that, speed and space. Extraordinarily explosive," Annese said in regards to worries of Markel being a shorter runner at 5'7".

Conner Milton, Linebacker, Forest Hills Central

A leader of a state playoff team, Milton was a standout athlete for the Rangers. He's regarded as one of the potential defensive backs at his position, with a great ability to make big plays.

"When they needed a score, they threw the ball deep to him. As a linebacker, he's extraordinarily good," Annese said on Mil-

ton's ability on both sides of the ball.

Milton led the team to back-to-back league titles in his junior and senior seasons and was tabbed to the Associated Press Division I-II All State squad. The 6'4", 205 pound unit will bring a strong presence in the middle of the defense when his number gets called by the coaching staff.

Alquerious Ray, Running Back, Clay (Fla.)

The highly touted tailback from the land of the oranges made noise with multiple offers and interest from the multiple levels of collegiate football. Averaging 126 yards per game, with 44 scores on the ground and two in the air. The Bulldog quarterbacks can look forward to having a versatile athlete in the backfield.

"He's a great running back. Watch his film, he's powerful and fast. And when I say fast, you're going to be surprised at how fast he is," Annese said.

Tre Redding, Slot Receiver, Michigan Collegiate

A talented football player and student, the 6 foot, 175 pound athlete led his team all the way to Ford Field in his senior year. With 10 interceptions, he shows a real threat to teams with his versatility as a football player.

"He can do it all. He can go back and play in the secondary, he had a lot of interceptions. He can play in the slot or receiver," Annese said.

Perrion Sylvester, Defensive Back, Newberry (Fla.)

The defensive threat that can jump out of the building displayed great speed and skill throughout all the years that he played varsity ball. He is a team leader who showed that trait on both the field and hardwood.

"He only played football for two years. He was one of those guys who was going to be a basketball star, but he's going to be a great football player," Annese said.

The raw talent that he's shown on the

field shows a promising potential, and Coach Ryan Hodges is no doubt excited to get him in the weight room on the field.

Levi Tuinstra, Kicker, Unity Christian

The second kicker that the Bulldog coaching staff has brought on in this recruiting class. He finished 41-46 on extra point attempts in his senior year. As well as splitting the uprights on a 75-yard field goal in the state semifinals.

Tuinstra averaged 60 yards per kickoff in the state finals, a coaches dream, as touchbacks are highly coveted for the defensive teams.

"There were several times that he kicked it across the end line. I thought he was going to kick it into the uprights," Annese said. "A perfect scenario for a kickoff coach, right, is touchbacks."

Myles Walton, Defensive Back, Muskegon

The final recruit and the second play from the Big Reds. Walton displayed an incredible talent in the game of football. A four-year starter for the prestigious program, where he averaged 10.2 yards per carry. He ran the ball on the offense 54 times for 550 yards, as well as dabbled in special teams, setting a school record for a 95 yard punt return.

"When you say four-year starter at Muskegon high school, you're saying something, right? That doesn't happen very often," Annese said. "He's played for a championship team there at Muskegon and he's excelled."

Tabbed as one of the top cornerbacks in the state of Michigan, there is no telling what he will be able to do when he gets the ball in a Bulldog uniform.

Although these new players won't see the field for quite some time, Bulldog football fans can look forward to seeing the winning culture and championship mentality continue for years to come.

Women's basketball splits weekend series

Bulldogs top Davenport, fall to Grand Valley

Jeffery Walker

Sports Reporter

Sports Editor Brody Keiser contributed to this article

With just six games left on the schedule, every game counts for the Bulldogs (15-7, 9-5 GLIAC) who currently sit in third place in the GLIAC standings.

Ferris pulled out a 72-55 victory against last-placed Davenport on Thursday, Feb. 3, but fell to first-placed Grand Valley 75-68 on Saturday, Feb. 5.

The Bulldogs have 26 points in the GLIAC standings, compared to 36 for the Lakers.

In Ferris' victory over Davenport, a big reason for their success was on the offensive side early in the game. The Bulldogs came out hot in the first quarter, jumping out to an early 22-14 lead. Zoe Anderson led with eight points.

"It was nice to get a good rhythm," head coach Kurt Westendorp said. "It was nice to win our opening tip play and get a layup four seconds into the game. It kind of set the tone for us."

After getting out to a hot start in the first quarter, the Bulldogs stayed efficient on the offensive side. They outscored Davenport in quarters two and three to stretch their lead going into the fourth.

It was a good all-around effort for the Bulldogs on Thursday, with four players scoring in double digits in the game. Leading the way for the Bulldogs in scoring was Adrienne Anderson with 18, Kady Blanchard with 13 and Zoe Anderson and Chloe Idoni with 10 each.

The Bulldogs finished the game shooting

43.9% from the field, 31.8% from three-point range and 71.4% from the free-throw line. They also added 22 assists.

Even though the Bulldogs had a good offensive night, they played well on defense down the stretch. The team finished with 46 rebounds and outrebounded the Panthers by 10.

The Bulldogs also created 15 turnovers, which resulted in 13 points. Adrienne Anderson led the way with six steals.

"Defensively, I just hone in," Adrienne Anderson said. "I know my assignment and that's what I contribute, that's my role. I know I want to execute my role to the best of my abilities. My role is to get stops, and that's what I'm going to do."

This was the Bulldogs' first game back after a three-game road trip where they went 1-2. Being back at home and able to have a few days of extra preparation and rest was well needed.

"It was nice on Monday and Tuesday to kind of get to focus on ourselves," Westendorp said. "We were able to work on a little bit of our things defensively."

Adrienne Anderson said her team will need a "killer mentality" to keep winning games down the stretch.

In the Bulldogs' second season matchup with Grand Valley, they were outscored 20-14 in the first quarter. Grand Valley beat the Bulldogs 67-59 on Jan. 14 and also got out a first quarter lead in that game as well.

"I felt like we did a pretty good job offensively most of the game," Westendorp said following Saturday's loss. "I felt like where my qualms are is on the defensive end of the court. We'd get a good little run, close

the gap real quick and then give up two or three buckets in a row. You look up at the scoreboard and feel like you're making progress and then [you're] still [down] eight."

The Bulldogs went into halftime trailing 48-43, but scored just 12 points in the third quarter and saw the Lakers take a 10 point lead into the fourth.

Ferris outscored Grand Valley 23-20 in the fourth quarter, but it was not enough and they fell to the Lakers by seven points, their second loss by eight points or less to the Lakers this season.

"Teams don't score 68 points against Grand Valley that often, and we didn't shoot the ball very well either," Westendorp said. "I'm really pleased with the way we played offensively."

The Bulldogs shot 36.9% from the field, including 28.6% from the three-point line. 68 points is the second highest point total the Lakers have allowed to an opponent all season. Michigan Tech scored 70 against Grand Valley in a losing effort on Jan. 20.

Ferris got 19 points from Chloe Idoni, 14 from Adrienne Anderson and 13 from Malory McCartney.

Adrienne Anderson led the way with eight rebounds. Mya Hiram came off the bench to collect six rebounds, four of them on the offensive glass.

The Bulldogs outrebounded Grand Valley 38-32, including a 15-6 advantage on the offensive glass. 15 offensive rebounds is the highest mark the Bulldogs have against a GLIAC opponent this season.

The Lakers shot 49.1% from the floor and 42.9% from three. Ferris recorded 11

turnovers and forced the Lakers into nine.

With both Ferris and Grand Valley near the top of the GLIAC standings, a potential postseason rematch between the two teams is not out of the question.

"I would definitely not mind a rematch in Allendale that first Sunday of March," Westendorp said. "I would look forward to that. Hopefully we can earn our way there."

The Bulldogs will travel on the road to face Lake Superior State on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 5:30 p.m. before returning home to face Northwood on Monday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 p.m.



Photo by Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Chloe Idoni makes a post move during Ferris' victory over Davenport.

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