**Faculty Concerns Committee Minutes**

*September 20, 2011, 3:30 p.m.*

Members Present: Ernce (chmn.), Philpot (secy.), Lyman, Kim, Herati, Franklin, Wang, Hulgus, Brinson,

Mitchell, Shi, Jutla, Hawkins, Dunlop, Jackson-Brown, Goss, Johnston, Acuna-Zumbado,

Hong, Webb, Shain, Cahoj, Redd, Scott, Wallace, Foster, Herr, Crafts, Hudson

Members Absent: Olson, Walker, Dyer, Buzzard, Satzinger, Kachel, Wallace, Farmer, Newman,

Canales, Gartin, Blevins, Sobel, Strong, (no rep named) DS, (no rep named) MS,

Wickham, Walker

Meeting was called to order by C. Ernce, who recognized a need to update the committee roster, as apparent changes had been made over the summer.

April minutes were approved on a Redd/Hulgis motion.

Ch. Ernce addressed the committee on the upcoming president/provost evaluation. We will conduct the evaluation of the interim officeholders, considering that they could become candidates for the positions permanently. The deadline for the survey of faculty is in October. The survey instrument is ready and delivered electronically; all that is needed is a review of the instrument and a post survey summary report. Members Hulgis, Cahoj and Philpot volunteered to serve on the relevant subcommittee.

The committee received a charge from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to examine the need for standards for binders being presented for promotion and tenure. There is some concern about bulk. The alternate perspective is that a faculty member should not be limited. Art and Design Dept. recently completed a re-design of its procedure. Herr stated that the FSEC had no priors, but just thought it might be worth a look. Members Foster, Lyman and Mitchell volunteered to serve on the relevant subcommittee. There was some agreement that college and rank representation on this subcommittee would be helpful. The committee’s charge is first to see if there is a problem (are huge binders merely isolated incidents?), then possibly survey and study current practice.

Ch. Ernce discussed the committee’s previous report and recommendations regarding administrative communications. The interim administration is considering the report and recommendations.

In old business, Ch. Ernce discussed the use of a search firm for department head searches. While this had been a prior concern, interim administration is not using search firms.

Also in old business, the committee discussed the outsourcing of online courses by a department. While the department in question sees the move as a faculty assignment decision that solves an allocation of resources problem, some have concern that proper procedure was not followed. Members Hulgis, Crafts and Hawkins volunteered to form a subcommittee to examine the case, the potential costs and benefits of such decisions, whether this is a widespread issue, and whether specific guiding definitions or policy are needed.

In new business, Member Redd mentioned a concern about recent failures of the BOG to comply with state sunshine laws, particularly with the resignation of President Cofer. It was noted that with a large turnover expected in the BOG, this would be a good time to include a primer on sunshine rules in the new governor orientation. Ch. Ernce will talk to the FS Chairman and see what the FS plans.

Meeting adjourned on a Redd/Hulgis motion.