UCFA
Minutes
March 14, 2000

Members Present: Martin Berz, Shirley Bordinat, Melissa Crimp, Ronald Dorr, Gretchen Flo, Charles Gliozzo, Hairong Li, Wanda May, Ann Millard, Rachel Schiffman, Alvin Smucker, Douglas Stewart, Frederick Tims

Ex Officio: Robert Banks, David Byelich

Others: Michael Rubneer, Donna Zischke

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. Adding the topic of parking issues on campus, committee members approved the agenda. They also corrected some wording in the minutes of the meeting of February 29, then approved those minutes--pending approval by Kathleen Rout and Indrek Wichman, who had spoken at that meeting.

Announcements:

Ted Tims reported that at the Academic Council meeting of February 29, 2000, student representatives argued effectively against the proposal to make faculty a majority of members on that Council. The proposal failed to gain the two-thirds vote necessary to pass.

Bob Banks reminded members to respond to the "Practical Guide," which his office has distributed: what would we add, change, or delete?

He also distributed a resolution (and accompanying papers) that the University Distinguished Professor be called the Trustees' University Distinguished Professor and that the stipend for such an award be increased from $5,000 to $7,500 each year for five years. The Personnel Subcommittee will take up this matter.

2020 VISION: Master Plan Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Hairong Li and Joanne Keith will be UCFA liaisons to the All-University Traffic Committee and coordinate concerns expressed to UCFA by faculty.

Discussion of the draft of 2020 VISION: Master Plan Goals, Objectives, and Strategies involved the point that this document is still a flexible plan. For instance, David Byelich reported two changes made on pp. 9 and 10 concerning the planning parameters and principles. Committee members expressed several strong concerns. What are the needs of the people who work here? How do you go from the planning principles to the particulars? What are the criteria being used? Do faculty have input? Are faculty being heard? Are the frustrations of faculty being considered? Bob Banks reminded committee members that 40-50 public sessions about this plan have already occurred. Identify the specific issues or concerns, he advised. Vice President Fred Poston has been invited to meet with UCFA before the end of April. The discussion ended with an agreement that Ted Tims as chair would write a letter to the Provost, expressing some of the concerns of UCFA before the Board of Trustees Meeting on March 15, 2000.

Guidelines for Web-talk Topics:

Alvin Smucker distributed a set of guidelines for determining further consideration of subjects forwarded to Web-talk at the UCFA Web-site. These guidelines involve relevance of topic, timing, distribution of material, and choice of committee to discuss the topic.

Further discussion will occur on March 21.

Report from Personnel Subcommittee:

Martin Berz, chair of the Personnel Subcommittee, reported on the process of evaluating the FGO. Numerous
faculty responses have come in, and the responses are being tabulated. The revised version of "Comments on Health Programs Faculty Appointment System" was distributed. The last sentence in the second paragraph was revised to read: "Here are a number of concerns with the proposed draft revision that should be addressed in that discussion." UCFA unanimously approved the changes in the revised version, "Health Programs Faculty Appointment System," and included 16 concerns that should be addressed in the future when that document is revised again.

Report from Budget Subcommittee:

Rachel Schiffman, chair, reported on the Budget Subcommittee's work drafting a letter to the Provost concerning faculty salaries. The strategy will be to put Michigan State University in the middle range of Big Ten universities, instead of its current position of 11th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m. so that subcommittees could meet for one-half hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Dorr

James Madison College