University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 26, 2003

Members Present: Joyce Chai, Jan Eberle, Michael Harrison, Louis Hunt, Cheri Johnson, Cynthia McCluskey, Susan Melnick, Whitney Miller, David Solomon, Shawnee Vickery, Alice Whiren, Mark Whalon, and Gwen Wyatt.

Ex Officio: Robert Banks, David Byelich.

Others: Michael Rubner, Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Chairperson Gwen Wyatt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and welcomed both the veteran and first-time attending members to the first fall semester meeting of UCFA. Introductions were then made.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda to be used for the 2002-03 meetings was approved at the August 27, 2002 meeting.

Dr. Melnick made a motion to approve a boilerplate agenda for the 2003-04 meetings. Dr. Hunt supported the motion. The motion was passed.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Whiren to approve the Minutes of April 22, 2003. Dr. Whalon seconded.

Dr. Rubner asked that the Minutes be amended on page 2, paragraph 2, line 1 to read (changed text has been bolded and italicized):

The Faculty Grievance Officer Survey forms returned in the evaluation of the Faculty Grievance Official found that the users of the FGO office were well satisfied with the way their questions and/or concerns were handled.

Dr. Banks asked that the Minutes be amended on page 2, paragraph 1, the last line to read (changed text has been bolded and italicized):

The policy Guiding Principles will be forwarded to the Provost.

The Minutes were approved as amended.

Announcements:

Dr. Wyatt noted that President McPherson would be returned to MSU (from his leave to assist with Iraq) by the end of September.

She also noted was the fact that BC/BS had reached an agreement with the Sparrow Healthcare System.

Dr. Melnick shared that she had received four inquiries regarding the Guiding Principles to Address Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment. She shared a copy of an
editorial from The New York Times titled Universities in Decline regarding public colleges and universities and overall faculty morale.

- Dr. Wyatt drew three names from the non-tenured faculty to fill one 2-year position on the Standing Appeals Panel (three names are drawn in case the first or second named faculty is unable to accept the position). The names drawn were: Dale Harrison McKnight, Business; Carrie Laboski, ANR, and Shu-Guang Li, Engineering.

- Dr. Michael Rubner, Faculty Grievance Officer, distributed copies of two reports: End of Spring Semester 2003 Report, and Annual Report of the Faculty Grievance Official to the Academic Council From May 13, 2002 Through May 9, 2003.

- As Dr. Rubner will be retiring in 2004, Dr. Banks stated that a second letter had been sent out seeking applicants for the FGO position.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: David Solomon, Chair. The subcommittee will follow up Provost Simon’s response regarding the “Guiding Principles to Address Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment.” The subcommittee will also begin the search process to replace FGO Michael Rubner.

Other possible topics for the subcommittee to review are: Integration of AAU philosophies; Conflict of Commitment; FGP practices; FGP practices/grievances.

Budget: Shawnee Vickery, Chair. The subcommittee will continue to review the policy regarding long-term care for faculty in order to have possibilities ready for faculty consideration during May Open Enrollment.

Tuesday, September 2, Renee Rivard, Acting Director of the Benefits Division of Human Resources, will attend the subcommittee’s September 2nd meeting to review the three providers/presenters.

David Byelich, Assistant Vice President and Director of Planning and Budgets, distributed copies of a packed titled Budget Primer, and gave a brief overview of the total packet.

Old Business: No old business was noted.

New Business: No new business was noted.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary