University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Members Present: Mary Bresnahan, Joyce Chai, Jan Eberle, Michael Harrison, Cheri Johnson, James Potchen, Shawnee Vickery, Alice Whiren, 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 1:06 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda to be used for the 2003-04 meetings was approved at the August 26, 2003 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Potchen to approve the Minutes of November 11, 2003. Dr. Eberle seconded. Dr. Potchen and Dr. Banks asked that the Minutes be corrected accordingly.

Dr. Potchen briefly discussed the possibility of the university being self-insured operating its own health insurance plan. Ms. Whitney Miller made a motion that the topic be forwarded to the Personnel Budget Subcommittee for further discussion. Dr. Vickery seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Announcements:

Dr. Banks distributed copies of a packet titled Review of the Ombudsman, and discussed it briefly. Dr. Whiren made a motion to forward this packet to the Personnel Subcommittee for review. Dr. Potchen seconded. The subcommittee will forward its recommendation to both ECAC and the Secretary of Academic Governance by the conclusion of Fall Semester.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: David Solomon, Chair. In the absence of Dr. Solomon, Dr. Johnson reported that the Personnel Subcommittee continued to discuss Guiding Principles Regarding Outside Activities and Financial Interest of Michigan State University Faculty with General Counsel Robert Noto. Dr. David Wright, Assistant Vice President for Research Ethics and Standards, will be working with the subcommittee today. She also reported that the Personnel Subcommittee would be meeting with the President and the Provost on Tuesday, November 25, to discuss the UCFA recommendations for the FGO position.

Budget: Shawnee Vickery, Chair. Dr. Vickery stated that the subcommittee is waiting for a reply from the Provost on their memo to her regarding raising the spending cap on the Health Care Spending Accounts to $4,800 from $3,000. She also reported that they will
explore the possibility of MSU having its own health program (similar to “M Care”), and it could be a good source of revenue and very beneficial to MSU. It was also noted that the Blue Cross cap of $5M is per individual, not per family unit. There is also a separate catastrophic policy cap.

**New Business:** No new business was noted.

**Old Business:** Dr. Potchen reported on the last Board of Trustees from his perspective as a faculty liaison. As part of his report, he asked Ms. Ann Beaujean, Director of State Relations from the Governmental Affairs office, to speak to UCFA regarding the budget affairs for the state of Michigan and how MSU is being affected.

**Adjournment:** UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary