University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Members Present: Mary Bresnahan, Jan Eberle, Michael Harrison, Cheri Johnson, Cynthia McCluskey, Susan Melnick, James Potchen, David Solomon, 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 1:04 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 18, 2003. Dr. Melnick seconded. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Announcements:
- Dr. Wyatt reminded the committee that the final regular meeting for fall semester would be next Tuesday, December 2.
- Dr. Wyatt also reminded the group that they would be luncheon guests of Dr. Potchen on the following Tuesday, December 9. Everyone should be at the Radiology Building at noon, and Dr. Eberle has made arrangements for a musical presentation at that time. There will be a group picture following the music, and then luncheon will be served at 1 p.m.
- Dr. Potchen suggested that pressure should continue to be applied to developing good communication with the state legislature in regards to the state budget problems and their affect on higher education and MSU.

Subcommittee Reports:
Personnel: David Solomon, Chair. Dr. Johnson reported that the subcommittee met with Dr. David Wright, and continued working on a draft policy statement regarding Faculty Financial Conflicts of Interest.

Budget: Shawnee Vickery, Chair. Dr. Vickery stated that Mr. Byelich had given the subcommittee a budget update. They are waiting for a reply from the Provost on their memo of October 28, 2003, requesting raising the spending cap on the Health Care Spending Accounts to $4,800 from $3,000. They are also waiting for the Provost’s response to their memo of October 14, 2003, requesting endorsement of the issue of a group discounted long-term care insurance policy for MSU faculty. A meeting has been scheduled for December 8 to discuss the possibility of MSU operating its own health insurance plan.

Old Business: No old business was noted.
New Business: Dr. Vickery asked Mr. Byelich if he would discuss the real estate holdings of MSU in the Detroit area that might be sold. There was also some discussion about the Medicare Bill being passed today, and how it might affect the retiree’s prescription costs and the university benefits budget.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary