University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 2, 2004


Ex Officio: Robert Banks, David Byelich.

Others: Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Melnick called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda to be used for the 2004-05 meetings was approved at the August 31, 2004 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Harrison to approve the Minutes of October 26, 2004. Dr. Teahan seconded. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Announcements:
- Dr. Banks distributed copies of the *Historical Summary of Faculty and Academic Staff – HEADCOUNT – ALL FUNDS* for UCFA members to peruse.
- Dr. Melnick shared that both Dr. Mary Bresnahan and her husband, Roger, received Crystal Apple Awards from the College of Education last Friday, October 29, 2004. This award is given in recognition of major contributions to education, and is non-specific.
- Mr. Byelich spoke briefly about long-term care, and said he would send an e-mail regarding sign-up information to UCFA members.

Subcommittee Reports:

**Budget:** Shawnee Vickery, Chair. In the absence of Dr. Vickery at this point, it was noted that the subcommittee did meet briefly for a general topic discussion.

**Personnel Policy:** Mary Bresnahan, Chair. The subcommittee met and made an internal audit themselves of the *Faculty Conflicts of Interest* policy. General Counsel Robert Noto will meet with the subcommittee next week and work through seven questions the subcommittee has formulated regarding the COI policy. Later this afternoon, a delegation of the subcommittee will go over to meet with Professor Peter Yu, MSU College of Law, to discuss the ownership principle of the MSU Copyright Policy.

Old Business:
- Dr. Bresnahan shared copies of the statement issued by University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman regarding *Benefits for Same-Sex Domestic Partners*. General discussion followed regarding whether UCFA would or should make a statement or affirmation of support for the similar policy which MSU presently has at this time.
prior to the outcome of today’s General Election voting. It was agreed to postpone any
decision until next week.

- Dr. Whiren indicated that she is working on the public urination letter and it should be
ready for review and consideration next week.

New Business:
- Dr. Harrison distributed copies of a document titled *Very interesting article on the cost of prescription drugs*. It is interesting general information. After discussion, it was concluded that although the drugs costs are high, this information is only part of the story. The research costs for innovative development of drugs is high, but the continuing discoveries in medicine and health care solutions make it all worthwhile. Dr. Brody offered to send us information on drug prices and the cost of drug research.
- Dr. Sticklen asked for a two-week extension on the review of the *Faculty Conflicts of Interest* on behalf of her faculty. After due consideration, it was determined that Friday, November 19, was probably a good possible date to plan on completing review and discussions of the policy.
- Mr. Byelich announced the state of Michigan had paid MSU a non-recurring offset of $8.8 million. He also indicated that there was a good possibility that there may be another mid-year rescission this year.

Dr. Whiren made a motion to adjourn the meeting, supported by Dr. Corser. Motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary