Members Present: Mei-Wei Chang, John Dirkx, Jason Merrill, Deborah Moriarty, Shawn Nicholson, John Powell, Patricia Schenck, David Solomon, Joanne Westphal, and Vladimir Zelevinsky.

Ex Officio: Terry Curry, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Chairperson John Powell called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda used for the 2007-08 meetings was approved at the August 28, 2007 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Powell stated that seeing no corrections, comments, concerns, or alterations, and without objection, the January 29, 2008 Minutes stand approved as distributed.

Announcements:
- Dr. Powell reported that Faculty Council held a registered meeting at the conclusion of Academic Council. A motion was made and seconded to take the recommendation of Task Force I for The Steering Committee (TSC) and change the membership to five at-large members and the chairs of the Standing Committees. The vote was taken and it passed as recommended. Dr. Powell reported on some of the other points to be discussed and resolved.
- Dr. Powell also reported that he had met with the liaisons, the provost, the medical school dean, and Dr. J. Randy Hillard, Vice Provost for Human Health Affairs regarding the faculty concerns about the Grand Rapids medical school and whether there would be two departments for several different areas, that the faculty would be reviewed differently from the campus faculty, etc. The discussion was helpful to clarify the actual points of concern – the same standards will be used for both campuses with no double departments found. UCFA may be requested to hold some open sessions with faculty and do further investigation and write a “white paper” report on the results.

Subcommittee Reports:
- **Budget:** John Dirkx, Chairperson Dr. Dirkx reported that Professor Terry Link spoke to the subcommittee and provided a good overview on sustainability followed by a good general discussion on recycling, energy use, and what more could be done.

- **Personnel Policy:** Jason Merrill, Chairperson; David Solomon, Assistant Chair The report was made by Dr. Solomon and he said the discussed faculty background checks and looking at what other universities are doing.

Old Business: Dr. Powell asked Dr. Solomon to be UCFA chairman for the discussion on the
Health Care Options Task Force report on the two meeting held January 17 and 31. A motion was made by Dr. Dirkx, seconded by Professor Moriarty, for the UCFA to draft a resolution that it establishes a working group of faculty/committee that can be an integrated part of future discussions. This would be a group appointed, not elected, from certain areas of expertise. The motion carried.

New Business: No new business was noted.

David Byelich gave a brief report indicating that the governor will give her Executive Recommendations on Thursday, February 7; also there is an ongoing endowment discussion; and there is reauthorization provisions of the Higher Education Appropriation Act that have some twists in them – significant tuition increases by institutions of higher education are being put on a “watch list” and likely they will question these increases. Today, MSU actually receives less money per student than it did 10 years ago (no inflation rate attached). With a 3-percent-a-year inflation rate, the appropriation rate received per student today is equivalent to what MSU received 20 years ago. Those points are good to keep in mind as discussions arise.

Dr. Curry reported briefly that he had sent two e-mails yesterday (February 4) to all deans and chairs regarding: 1) a pilot smoking cessation program; 2) partner hiring/spousal appointment – MSU and 23 other Michigan universities announced the launching of a new web site called: http://www.michiganherc.org (Michigan higher education recruitment consortium) and all our job openings in all groups are now listed.

Other Questions: No other questions were noted.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 1:40 p.m.

Mike Rice from Police and Public Safety spoke to the full UCFA during the subcommittee meeting time.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary