Present: Dave Dolan; Michael Draney (Chair); Ray Hutchison; Derek Jeffreys; Tim Kaufman; Bryan Vescio; Linda Parins, Academic Staff Representative; Heba Mohammad, Student Association Representative

Guests: Provost Julia Wallace

Minutes and General Discussion

1.) Approval of minutes, 7 September 2011 meeting: Minutes of 7 September University Committee meeting were approved by voice vote and unanimous consent.

2.) Informational Updates: Debriefing on last Senate meeting: Derek Jeffreys was commended for running a highly successful first Faculty Senate meeting. UC members expressed particular satisfaction with the decision to present the Committee on Workload and Compensation proposal in a first reading rather than for immediate approval because doing so is consistent with past practice and will allow time to get feedback from the Committee on Committees and Nominations.

Old Business

3.) Joint Committee on Workload and Compensation: The Chair noted that he would incorporate one important change to the proposal that was suggested at the Senate meeting: the appointment of Debbie Furlong, Director of Institutional Research, to serve on the Committee as an ex officio member. The Chair also noted that the UC would seek feedback from the Committee on Committees and Nominations prior to the UC meeting just before the next Senate meeting. The UC then took up the question of nominations for the Committee. Dave Dolan volunteered to serve as the ex officio UC member, though he noted that he only had one year left on the UC. Ray Hutchison also expressed a willingness to serve. The Chair suggested Andrew Kersten as either the LAS representative or the at large representative. Ray Hutchison suggested Doreen Higgins as a potential representative from Professional Studies and the Graduate Faculty. A discussion of the wisdom of appointing non-tenured faculty to the Committee ensued, with some suggesting it would bring a different perspective on compensation and workload issues and others worrying that it could put non-tenured faculty in an awkward position in relation to administration. Pending a decision on that matter, Bryan Vescio suggested either Vince Lowery or David Voelker to represent LAS, leaving Andrew Kersten as an at-large member. Linda Parins suggested either Dave Kieper or Grant Winslow to represent the Academic Staff on the Committee.
4.) Health Information Management and Technology proposal discussion: Derek Jeffreys said that he had been presented with changes to the proposal after the Senate meeting, and the Chair told him to forward those changes to him for a reply. UC members agreed that if the changes were minor enough they could be incorporated into the proposal for its second reading. Dave Dolan observed that a number of parties still had concerns about how prerequisites for computer courses would be handled under the proposal, and that the UC should take note of whether changes in those requirements are among the proposed changes. The Chair said that since the Academic Affairs Committee had signed off on the proposal, perhaps the UC should consult that committee about whether it shared concerns others have raised. Tim Kaufman suggested inviting Steve Dutch, the AAC chair, to a future meeting for that purpose.

5.) Continuing work on Faculty Governance Committees: The Chair explained that some time ago the UC had begun to consider the possibility of making some existing Faculty Governance Committees joint committees and consolidating or eliminating others. A proposal for doing so was presented to the Senate in October of 2010 but was tabled. The proposal was then forwarded to the Committee on Committees and Nominations for input, but none was provided. In early 2011, the general idea of more joint faculty/staff committees was endorsed by the Senate, so the Chair suggested that now might be the time to revive the proposal for consolidation. He provided the original list of proposed changes, which included some revisions based on feedback from administration and members of the committees concerned. Derek Jeffreys recommended sending them to the CCN again for feedback. The rest of the discussion focused on the status of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget, and the Chair suggested either revising its charge or eliminating it altogether. UC members generally agreed that finding a way to help the committee do its job is a better option than eliminating it entirely. Dave Dolan suggested inviting members of the committee to a UC meeting for input on what the UC could do to help them, and the Chair said he would try to do so for the meeting after the next. He also said he would look into the possible redundancy of the Facilities Planning Committee and the Administrative Committee on Facilities and the possibility of combining the Legislative Committee and the Legislative Affairs Committee, after which he would again forward the list to the CCN for input.

New Business

6.) Meeting with Provost Julia Wallace: The Provost suggested that the UC and the Senate take up the question of whether to continue with the current common meeting time from 3:30-5 PM on Mondays or whether to change or eliminate it. The Chair said the UC would consider the issue at the next UC meeting. The Provost also mentioned that the issue of childcare arose at the Student Government Association retreat. Her sense was that while childcare was also a concern of faculty and staff, the former may have different ideas about what they want than the latter. She also said that she had contacted a company called Bright Horizons but that the biggest obstacle to providing a facility on campus would be the availability of space. She said she could provide information on the matter to any group that might be interested. The Chair asked the Provost what she thought of the lack of prioritization in the Strategic Planning structure the Chancellor had proposed, and she admitted that the model was unfamiliar to her. She did note that although the various goals in the process were not prioritized in relation to one another, the Chancellor intended each of them to be given a “time priority.” When the Chair asked whether
units would be held to those goals and Derek Jeffreys asked whether the goals were meant to be quantifiable, the Provost replied yes on both counts. As examples of such goals for academics, she suggested incorporating high impact practices and addressing the achievement gap. The Chair stressed the need for the UC to maintain an ongoing dialog with administration about the Strategic Planning process.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.
Respectfully submitted, 9/28/11, Bryan Vescio, Secretary Pro Tempore