In Attendance:

John Duffield, Laura Fredrick, Fred Brooks, Many Anne Gaunt, Jeff Rupp, Hugh Hudson, Dean Dabney, Mary Finn, Cheryl Delk, Peter Lindsay, Dave Pavesic, and C. S. Thachenkary (Acting Chair).

C. S. Thachenkary served as acting chair in the absence of Dr. Peggy Albers. The meeting was called to order at 1:10PM.

Agenda and Discussion

The first order of business was approval of minutes of the November FAC meeting. A motion to do so was made and seconded, and all present voted for the approval of minutes.

The chair then updated committee members on several items. First, he reported that he had, in his acting capacity, agreed to a few friendly amendments, mostly editorial in nature, which had been requested by the Senate Executive Council. Notably, they dealt with the clarification that senate evaluations of senior level administrators are not the occasions for the President to make re-appointment decision regarding those evaluated. Provost Palm had stated in an earlier FAC meeting that administrators serve at the pleasure of the President and decisions regarding continuing appointments are subject to the President’s review at any time.

The chair then brought up the matter of an amendment being planned by Dr. Christine Gallant (university senator) to be presented from the floor at today’s senate meeting regarding Senate Motion No. 3: Procedure for the Evaluation of Administrators. The acting chair and the Executive Council had been given the privilege of previewing the proposed amendment. FAC recommended changing “external reviewers” in the text of the amendment to “outside evaluators.” With the change noted, FAC voted to accept this amendment as a friendly amendment at the upcoming senate meeting scheduled for this afternoon.

The next update dealt with today’s Senate Motion No. 4: Tenure Clock Stoppage and Leave Proposal. The motion previously approved by FAC on this policy is now under review by the university legal office. Until that review can be completed, the Executive Council asked FAC to accept a substitute motion to keep the current interim policy in place and to extend its expiry date until a new policy can be approved by the Senate. At this point John Duffield produced a copy of the current (interim) policy and pointed to the inclusion of the word “partner” after “spouse” in the policy. Members felt comfortable supporting the motion to retain the current policy with its inclusive language of “spouse or partner.” A motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative to accept this substitute motion as forming the university’s interim policy to be voted on at the Senate meeting today.

Next, Hugh Hudson wished to make a friendly amendment to insert “All faculty members of the current senate and the two preceding senate…” under Item (2), Section: “Distribution of
Evaluation Forms,” contained in the “Procedures for the Evaluation of Vice President for Research.” His rationale was that such a change would make this evaluation consistent with all other senate evaluations of administrators. FAC voted to approve this as a friendly amendment to the said Senate Motion No. 3

The chair then called on Dave Pavesic to raise his concerns regarding poor campus lighting conditions and possible weakness in campus security. Some discussion followed on appropriate course of action to take. The committee agreed to revisit this matter at a future meeting.

Dean Dabney reported several editorial corrections that needed to be made to the “Procedures for the Evaluation of the Associate Provost International Affairs.” The committee felt these were appropriate and warranted and agreed to accept them as another friendly amendment to today’s Senate Motion No. 3 (referenced above).

Throughout the entire length of today’s meeting, there was extensive discussion on such matters as the use and role of “outside evaluators” in the evaluation of senior administrators, the need to include “domestic partners” in the university’s benefits structure, and the need for “staff component” in administrator evaluations.

A motion to adjourn today’s meeting was called and seconded; with all in favor, the meeting ended at 2:45PM. Members were urged to attend today’s University Senate Meeting scheduled to take place at 3:00PM.

(These minutes were prepared by today’s acting chair.)