The Governance Council of the Faculty Senate has two committees that report to it; namely, the Committee on Governance Documents and the Committee on Committees. The Committee of Governance Documents considered many document changes for the Faculty Handbook and for the Council’s business throughout the year. These topics are included in the general topics for the Governance Council below. The Committee on Governance Documents was co-chaired by Denise Vrchota. The Committee on Committees’ responsibility was the appointment suggestions to fill the Senate’s committees and liaison positions. The Committee on Committees was chaired by Clark Ford. The Governance Council also had the responsibility of conducting the Senate’s elections for filling completed terms.

The major topics of action for the Governance Council for the 2007-8 academic year were the following – note that these are only topical items (see the Council Minutes on the Faculty Senate website for more details):

- Revised language and related “link” items for the Faculty Handbook’s Religious Accommodation/Class Attendance Policy (this item was coordinated with GSB and others) – this item was approved by the Senate,
- Considered the issue of directors serving on the Senate – Governance Council decided to leave the language as it exists in the Bylaws,
- Processed the policy of edits for the Faculty Handbook (the policy draft was submitted by the Gov. Docs. Committee and approved by the Senate),
- Two issues concerning write-in candidates were discussed and resolved,
- Extensive discussions took place on proposed changes to the Open Meetings Policy in the Faculty Handbook. Coordination of this discussion took place with Paul Tanaka’s office and other faculty (this item is still pending, due to the State Legislature’s proposed changes),
- Conversion of the newly adopted NTER procedures to Faculty Handbook language and sections is in process,
- The Senate Bylaws were changed to create a Representative Committee consisting of the Caucus chairs (this item was approved by the Senate),
- The Senate Bylaws were changed to make the President-Elect of the Senate the chair of the Committee on Committees and to make the members of this committee as the Caucus Chairs (this item was approved by the Senate),
- The Senate Bylaws were changed to provide for a new committee under the Governance Council for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations for the governance documents of departments and colleges of the entire university (this item was approved by the Senate),
- Language changes were proposed for incorporation into the Faculty Handbook for the section on the Faculty Conduct Policy – Chapter 7 (this action was approved by the Senate),
- The nomination form for the President-Elect office was revised,
• Discussions were held on the need for the completion of representation on some of the Senate Committees, such as the Committee on Women and Minorities,
• Revised statements for the Discrimination and Harassment provisions in Chapters 2 and 8 were submitted to the Senate (the Senate approved these provisions),
• Significant work occurred during the summer of 2007 on finalizing the contents of the Faculty Handbook from those items passed by the Senate from the previous spring. Denise Vrchota, Claudia Baldwin, Max Porter and the Provost Office put in a significant amount of work proofing the work done by the IT people for the Handbook. A special recognition goes to Denise Vrchota for all the extra effort to proof and review all the sections of the Handbook that were affected.
• Work continues for revisions to the Policies and Procedures Manual to provide updates and to include the new edit policy and the style sheet for the Faculty Handbook.

Overall, the Governance Council had a very busy and productive year, as can be seen by the extensive list of accomplishments and activities listed above. More details on the items listed above can be seen in the Council’s minutes which are posted on the Senate Website.

The report is respectfully submitted by Max Porter, Chair of Governance Council.
Active Members of the Council are:
Clark Ford,
Tom Chacko,
Joe Haynes,
Dan Loy,
Steve Porter,
Michael Martin,
John Mayfield,
Denise Vrchota, Vice-Chair,
Sedahlia Crase,
Susan Carlson, Ex-Officio,
Max Porter, Chair