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 and Claudia Baldwin. 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 Sedahlia Crase. 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 2006-7 academic year were the following:

- Revised language and items for the Faculty Handbook’s Faculty Conduct Policy,
- The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Handbook language,
- New language for the Faculty Handbook for the Double or Multiple Voting section,
- Proposed changes in the Handbook’s statements on the No Smoking Policy,
- Joint Discussions and development with the FDAR Council of the NTE Research Appointments (not yet completed, but about ready for EB and Senate action),
- Language revisions to the University Professor and Distinguished Professor descriptions,
- PRS Mediation Guidelines revisions to the Faculty Handbook,
- Harassment Policy language for the Faculty Handbook,
- Handbook language for the part-time tenure and tenure-eligible appointments,
- Discussion of the Open Meeting policy coordination of Handbook language with the University policies (not yet completed),
- Several other policy items were discussed, but further action was needed,
- Some additional items were reported to the Council during the year such as the Task Committee to review all the department and college governance documents on campus. This item is likely to be an on-going review process by a possible new committee of the Council (being proposed by the Task Committee). Another item reported to the Governance Council is the new committee called Policy Library Advisory Committee (PLAC). Denise Vrchota is serving as the Senate’s representative to PLAC.

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. The Council met numerous times during both semesters with a more intense meeting schedule the past month since several items occurred, including the possible new NTE research appointment titles.

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