Minutes
GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
September 12, 2008

Present: Max Porter, Tom Loynachan, Clark Ford, Stephen Porter, Pol Herrmann, Joe Haynes, Skip Walter, Arnold Van Der Valk, and Michael Martin.

1. Meeting was called to order by Max (9:40 a.m.). Introductions were made.

2. Agenda was changed to provide a secretary; Skip volunteered for this meeting; the role will rotate with each meeting.

3. Motion made to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2008 meeting (made, 2nd, passed).

4. Skip reported the Governance and Documents Committee (G&DC) members are providing Sherrie with their schedules so a meeting time can be established. The committee agenda will include the university smoking policy. This led to a discussion of the role of the G&DC and the possible need to develop an FS policy on links (within documents; e.g., Faculty Handbook) vs. a policy of the contents of the links. There was much discussion whether this was the issue or was it a lack of faculty input. What are the roles of PLAC and the FS vs. links? Question: should the GC ask PLAC to advise, as a clearinghouse, the campus any time a link content is changed? Question: are links necessary? Arnold pointed out there are two ways of linking: one the same server (e.g., linkadr.edu) or not (i.e., not a “.edu” server). GC can ask PLAC to monitor link content and say who is authorized to change these policies.

Motion (made and 2nd): that the GC representatives to PLAC (Max and Skip) request that PLAC serve as a library for links and to develop a mechanism for notifying PLAC members of changes in existing linked policies or to inform them about proposed linked policies. Motion passed.
5. Arnold reported the Committee on Committees has been busy staffing new committees; most are completely staffed. Issues that have come up: there is no data base for appointing people according to their areas of interest. Max said there had been a data base in the past. It was suggested that a survey of interests could be distributed at the next FS meeting. Alternatively, there is an email list for all faculty members. Arnold asked who makes liaison appointments. Response: Clark does, as FS President. A formal follow-up may be needed. Clark and Arnold will review university committees to see which ones want FS liaisons. Question: what FS committees need to be revamped under the new university budget model, or which do not function well. Arnold recommended a review to streamline the number of committees (and noted a discrepancy in their number in the list of committees and by-laws), now estimated at 15. CC will look at by-law statements about FS committees and review the mechanism for getting liaisons on other university committees. Max recommended that Arnold move forward and report back.

6. Review of Governance Documents by Departments and Colleges: Tom recommended that all departmental documents be included on the departments’ websites. This recommendation was also contained on a handout that Clark Ford distributed to the GC. The handout was entitled “Recommendation of Departmental Governance Document” (Draft) from the University Chairs Cabinet, dated March 2008. The handout contained a “Governance Document Checklist”. These items will be under consideration by Tom’s Review Committee.

7. Items from EB: Smoke-free campus. After brief discussion, a motion (made & 2nd): to recommend to the EB that FH Section 8.4.5 was acceptable with an updated URL and date, as required, and that the Smoke-Free Campus Policy as currently disseminated was also acceptable. Motion passed: 7-1.

8. Next EB item: Statement on “Hiring Authority,” dated July 1, 2008. Motion (made & 2nd) to forward to EB with recommendation for approval. Motion passed.
9. Last EB item: Employment Verification. This item is to be on the agenda for the next meeting.


11. Next meeting, September 26, Town Engr. 388, 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: C. K. Walter