Minutes of the April 17, 2012 Meeting

President DiBiasio called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. in the Activities Room of McIntosh Center. Whether it was the weather or that this was the last meeting of the academic year, the assembled crowd had a distinct air of lightheartedness. Those who entered by the front door had to make their way to the back of the room and, after presumably presenting a valid government issued photo ID to verify that they were indeed members of the faculty, were given a collection of ballots and a “clickr”.

The invocation was given by Suzanne Morrison.

The minutes for the March 27, 2012 meeting were approved without addition, correction or comment.

Because we were so efficient last month, there was no unfinished business from previous meetings.

President DiBiasio announced a few items before opening the floor to questions.

a. The Lehr Society dinner celebrated the record breaking and historical results of the capital campaign noting that over $109 million has been raised to date from over 21,000 donors of whom nearly half are first time donors. He extended his appreciation to the faculty who contributed either financially or otherwise to the success of the campaign.

b. The final report of The Sustainable Program and Financial-Based Review would be available by Friday along with a timeline for implementation.

c. He has presented and discussed the resolution that was passed by this body with the executive committee of the Board of Trustees as an appropriate follow-up to the faculty’s action.

d. An outline of a university strategic plan will be ready by next week but the timetable for the approval process will most likely be extended to the fall term.

e. Present enrollment projections for next fall still support a 3% increase in salary for the next budget.

Michael Milks raised the question as to whether consideration was given to increasing (restoring) the University’s contribution to retirement funds. Ron Beaschler, as chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, indicated that the committee had considered that and other possibilities before making their recommendation. Sherry Young pointed out that individual faculty have the opportunity to voluntarily contribute additional monies to their retirement fund.

Sherry Young, Chair of University Council, reported on the deliberations of that body.

Elections:

In an assumed tightly contested race for Chair of University Council, Rob Alexander was announced the victor. Thanks are extended to Kevin Hill, whose self-nomination staved off a constitutional crisis (or at least a Council stalemate), as he successfully executed an effective negative campaign against himself.

Brian Myers, Kristie Payment, and Sandy Schroeder were elected as At-Large members of Council.

John Armstrong was elected to the Committee on Athletics.

Jennifer Kline was elected to the Religious Affairs Committee.

Jay Mager and Jonathan Smalley were elected to the Undergraduate Faculty Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee.

Rich Miller, Kofi Nsia-Pepra, and Kristen Finley Sabota were elected to the Faculty Grievance Committee.

Sandy Hrometz, Karen Kier, Bill Mancuso, Ray Person and Dave Rettet were elected to the Review Committee on Dismissal of Faculty.

Jennifer Kline, Jed Marquart, Diedre Myers, Jo Ann Scott and Amy Stockert were elected to the Hearing Committee on Dismissal of Faculty.
Laurie Bell and Brian Myers were elected to the University Board of Appeals.

Sarah Waters was elected to the Tuition Exchange Committee.

Our parliamentarian wasn’t present, so it’s a good thing no questions about procedure came up; although one may wonder if “standing to be recognized” constitutes campaigning within 100 feet of a polling place.

Faculty with an interest in probability and statistics might comment on the seemingly apparent correlation between being elected and being present at the meeting. Future nominees may wish to consider this as they formulate their campaign strategy.

At least one faculty member later thought that it might be slightly ironic that at one faculty meeting we concern ourselves with “openness” and “transparency” in our shared government and at the next meeting we vote by secret ballot and rely on the upper administration to announce who won.

Most of the committee reports were “No Report” except that the Personnel Committee had nobody present to say “No Report.” But we did hear that there are new student groups on campus that might be learning about study abroad because of our expanded computer bandwidth.

Under new business the Registrar, Tamara Bash, requested that somebody move the approval of the amended list of spring term graduates “provided that all remaining requirements for graduation are met.” So somebody did and somebody else seconded it, and then we all passed the motion.

Several announcements – historical, political, musical, and theatrical; but not vegetable, animal or mineral – were made. It was almost *Pinafore*-ical.

The President adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Hastily scribbled then neatly typed,

Jonathan Smalley
Secretary