Call to Order: David Rainville called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm

Seating of Substitutes- Mike Middleton for Laine Vignona, Robyne Tideman for Peter Johansson

Recognition of Invited Guests:

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes of September 24 was moved by Terry Ferriss and seconded by David Furniss. Corrections: Kristie Feist was absent the last meeting without finding a substitute. In the discussion of the approval of the search committee for the provost it was preferred that the word gender be recorded in the minutes rather than agenda. The minutes were approved unanimously.
Chairs Report

To start with, I can tell you that I did not attend the Board of Regents meeting held at Stevens Point last week. I decided that my time would be better spent by going to the BOR meeting in Madison in November as the biennial pay plan that UW System will be proposing will be presented at that meeting.

Secondly, Today's agenda is shorter than originally planned as we asked Dan McGinty to come to Faculty Senate today to answer some questions that were raise at our last meeting. He unfortunately had to decline and asked if he could come to our next meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. Additionally we had planned on putting an item dealing with a new Administrative committee on the agenda. This has been delayed so some questions that have arisen can be addressed before it comes to this body.

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008, the Executive Committee met with senior leadership to discuss several items. Several of these items appear in some form on the agenda today. The one item of interest that does not is an item concerning an evaluation form for instructional academic staff that was prepared by the IAS Task Force which is an ad hoc Faculty Senate Committee. This evaluation has gone to the Academic Staff Council where it has been approved. A question arose as to whether there was a governance issue here that Faculty Senate needed to address. As this is a personnel issue involving academic staff, it was generally concluded that it does not need to come before this body.

Two other items that do need the attention of this body is the Keith G. Wurtz Award for Teaching Excellence and Administrative Evaluations.

At the time of that meeting we did not have specific about the Keith G. Wurtz Awards and we wanted to discuss it at Faculty Senate. Since then, some additional information has arisen concerning the awards. The following was stipulated in a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the donor:

The purpose of the endowment is to provide a monetary stipend to acknowledge teaching excellence of faculty members at the University of Wisconsin River Falls using the following criteria:

• The selection committee will be chaired by the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and be composed of faculty representing each college that will make the selection then forward their recommendation to the Chancellor for final approval.
• Two awards will be distributed and presented at the fall opening staff meeting on an annual basis.

We have been asked by the Provost to appoint two faculty members from each college. Preferably these faculty members will have received previous awards or participated in the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows Program. This was placed under Miscellaneous New Business today as we had hoped to create an ad hoc committee to look into a committee to develop criteria and a process for these awards. Given information since then by the
Provost, I am uncertain that this appropriate. It may be appropriate for the committee itself to develop the criteria and process itself.

The other item which has arisen involves administrative evaluations. Both the Administration and the Executive Committee feels that it would be appropriate to explore the possibility of establishing a process by which this could be done. You will notice that this item is listed under Miscellaneous New Business. I may be appropriate when we bring this matter up to either create a committee to look into this, or charge the Executive Committee to create such a committee. This committee may or may not have an open ended charge.

Finally, I want to say a little about Health Care Plans. An inspection of the plan currently available to UWRF faculty and staff is far more encouraging than I originally thought. While the Standard Plan has gone to tier 3 for Minnesota Residents, the State Maintenance Plan is available at tier 1 rates. This plan has many of the providers that were originally in Preferred One which was the network utilized by Humana. I would greatly encourage each of you to look closely at your options. I believe that for many of us, this is an incredible opportunity. It appears as though much of our effort in Madison last year paid off.

**Vice Chair’s Report:** none

**Other Reports:** none

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business Consent Agenda:**

1. Program Change in the Economics Major
2. Appointment of Robin Murray and Magdalena Pala to the Audit and Review Committee (appointments are for three years) 2008-2011
3. Replacement of Brian Schultz with Carl Popelka on the Advising Committee, 2008-2011
4. Appointment of Tracey Gladstone-Sovell to serve as the Provost designee (ex officio) on the Assessment Committee

Karl Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by John Heppen. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

1. **First reading** of a **motion** from the Academic Program and Policy Committee to amend its membership to include the Registrar or designee as an ex officio (non-voting) member. As this is a change in the by-laws, it requires two readings. The old and new descriptions are included below:
Old Description:

Article III: Standing Committees

Section A – Academic Program and Policy Committee
1. Membership: Nine faculty (at least three of whom are members of the graduate faculty and who are affirmed by the Graduate Council), the Provost and Vice Chancellor or the Provost and Vice Chancellor’s designee, and four students.

New Description:

Article III: Standing Committees

Section A – Academic Program and Policy Committee
1. Membership: Nine faculty (at least three of whom are members of the graduate faculty and who are affirmed by the Graduate Council), the Provost and Vice Chancellor or the Provost and Vice Chancellor’s designee, four students, and the Registrar or his/her designee as a non voting member.

It was brought up that there is some ambiguity in the term of “Provost and Vice Chancellor”, as to whether it refers to the historical definition of two positions, or the current definition of one. This can be clarified as an amendment to the motion at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

2. A motion from the Executive Committee to appoint the chairs of the Assessment Committee (Joy Benson), and Faculty Welfare and Personnel Policies Committee (Brad Mogen) to the Data Quality Management Team. This is a new Administrative Committee as explained below. These appointments will be for the 2008-2009 academic year.

A motion to approve the chairs was made by John Heppen and seconded by Jennifer Willis-Rivera.

Discussion
Marina Onken was originally included as a chair in this motion, but she has declined participation on this committee. She may find a designee on her sub-committee as her replacement, which would be brought to Senate.

The role of this committee will be for expertise in data accuracy only, and will not be a decision-making group. The Data Quality Management Team will also need to be included in Chapter II of the Faculty and Staff Handbook.

The motion passed with a vote of 21 for, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.
3. A motion from the Executive Committee to create an *ad hoc* Faculty Senate Committee charged with creating the **Initiatives and Tasks for Goal 4: Develop Engaged Leaders** of the UWRF Strategic Plan.

The Committee will consist of the following members: Gregg Hadley (CAFES), Dennis Cooper (CAFES), Neil Kraus (CAS), Michelle Parkinson (CAS), Claire Killian (CBE), Joy Benson (CBE), Mark Gillen (COEPS), Michael Miller (COEPS), Amy Lloyd (Student Affairs), Donna Robole (Human Resources), Blake Fry (Chancellor's Office), and Carmen Croonquist (Career, Counseling and Health Services). Blake Fry will be responsible for calling the first meeting with the committee electing its chair.

The committee will report back to Faculty Senate no later than December 1, 2008. It will be disbanded with the approval of the Initiatives and Tasks by Faculty Senate.

A motion to approve this item was made by Glenn Potts and seconded by David Furniss. The motion passed by a vote of 22 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

4. A motion from the Executive Committee to change Article II of the **Constitution of the UW-River Falls Faculty**. It is proposed that the word lecturers be replaced with instructors. This is a technical change to be in compliance with the UW System definition of Faculty Ranks.

**Old Language:**

**Article II - Definition of the Faculty**

Faculty shall be defined to include the Chancellor, all professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and lecturers. Academic staff were granted "faculty status" by action of the Faculty Senate and the Chancellor on July 29, 1975 and Sept. 16, 1975, respectively.

**New Language:**

**Article II - Definition of the Faculty**

Faculty shall be defined to include the Chancellor, all professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors. Academic staff were granted "faculty status" by action of the Faculty Senate and the Chancellor on July 29, 1975 and Sept. 16, 1975, respectively.

This was an editorial problem due to an inadvertent switching of the word. This item must go to the entire faculty and academic staff for approval as it is a change in the Constitution. The executive committee recommended waiting until spring elections and voting on this item in conjunction. A motion was made by Dennis Cooper and seconded by Karl Peterson. The motion passed by a vote of 22 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**Miscellaneous New Business:**
1. Keith G. Wurtz Award for Teaching Excellence:

A list of committee members is needed as the award recipients will be announced at the fall opening meeting. It was asked if it would be appropriate for the executive committee to do an open solicitation, then appoint the committee with Faculty Senate approval. It was also suggested that the executive committee develop a proposal for Faculty Senate, that would address the composition of the committee and then make an open call for membership.

No action was taken.

2. Administrative Evaluations:

As chair, David Rainville has received several emails from faculty members regarding the option of evaluation of the administration at UWRF.

Discussion:
Evaluations would have to both have a process and a purpose.
If the information is used internally for the benefit of the administration, than this should be pursued.
We need a statement of the objective of the evaluations, as well as the use of them. Perhaps this should be referred to Faculty Welfare, as they are already familiar with the evaluation process.

A motion was made by Wes Chapin to send a charge to Faculty Welfare to develop an instrument and a process of administrative evaluations. The motion was seconded by Pat Berg.

Discussion of the motion.
It would be appropriate to ask the committee to report after drafting the objectives, but before developing the evaluation instrument.

The motion was approved by a vote of 22 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Kristen Hendrickson moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Michael Miller. There was no objection.

Adjournment at 4:09 p.m.