Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC)
Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Membership:

Harold I. Friedman (2011)
Chris Robinson, Chair (2011)
Laura Walls (2012) - James Carper substituting
Danielle Holley-Walker (2013)
James Knapp (2013)

Ex Officio members:

Patrick Nolan- Chair Faculty Senate
Michael Amiridis – Provost
Christine Curtis - Senior Vice Provost

New members elected for terms beginning in the Summer 2011 and ending 2014:

Professors Shawn Chillag (2014) and Melinda Forthofer (2014). James Carper is filling in for the unexpired term of Laura Walls who received a prestigious fellowship and could not serve on the committee this year. Jan Breuer was away on sabbatical during the spring 2011.

Meetings were held on the following dates:

Sept 13, Oct 18, Nov 8, Dec 6, Jan 10 (cancelled – snow), Feb 7, Mar 14, Apr 11

The work of the FAC centered on several issues:

1) The committee finished work on updates to the research section of the Faculty Manual after recommendations from the Vice-Presidents for Research and Graduate Education, Stephen Kresovich and Tim Mousseau, along with significant revisions from Tommy Coggins, the Director of the Office of Sponsored Program Management. A final edited draft was approved by the committee, passed through legal, posted on the Faculty Senate website for faculty comment, and offered for approval at the April 2011 Faculty meeting. Approval was postponed to the fall faculty meeting as there were last minute editorial changes.

2) The ability to vote electronically for issues of a quorum at Faculty Senate Meetings and general faculty meetings was raised as a proposal by the FAC. This matter was discussed last year, and new information was presented this year by the faculty Parliamentarian, Professor
Mark Tompkins. After hearing examples of how this process has been implemented at other Universities, the various pro and con considerations regarding electronic voting were discussed, but no formal changes were recommended.

3) Several administrative policies were updated and reviewed over the summer 2010 and were administratively approved prior to the due date of the SACS report in early September. (There is an ACS requirement that all policies be reviewed and updated every 10 years and some of the policies were 15 years old.) Since there was not time for substantive review by the FAC in late August and since most of the work was done over the summer, the FAC this year reviewed, discussed, and with editorial changes, approved the policies as written. There was some discussion about why the administration does not have consequences, like many faculty sanctions, if policies are not followed. Faculty who feel that policies have not been followed may contact Christine Curtis with their concerns.

4) The committee explored and discussed a variety of other ongoing issues such as participation in and the effect of faculty governance, salaries, sustainability, collegiality, administrative participation on the FAC, and how to generate meaningful traction on issues of faculty interest as well as those of administrative necessity.

Chris Robinson assumed the role of chair of the committee this year, following Harold Freidman.

New members of FAC for 2011-2012 are:

Shawn Chillag (2014)
Melinda Forthofer (2014)

Rotating off are:

Harold Freidman
Chris Robinson

James Carper was filling in for Laura Walls who was the recipient of a prestigious fellowship and was unable to serve on the committee this year.