I. Call to Order: Steven McCarthy called the meeting to order at 9:00

II. Approval of 12/17/2009 Minutes: Motion by Delong, second by LaBat to approve meeting minutes from December 17. Motion passed.

III. Brief Report from Senators: Marilyn Bruin, Julia Robinson, Ann Ziebarth

President Bruininks presented budget information at the most recent Faculty Senate meeting, including a series of cost-saving measures the University may undertake. President is proposing a deferred 2% increase (merit pool) for faculty, as well as 3 unpaid furlough days in December. Timing of furlough is also about energy savings if the entire campus shuts down. University executives will be asked to take an additional 3 unpaid furlough days. Most faculty said they would favor furloughs if it saves positions. Employees can voluntarily take up to 10 days without pay. Faculty Senate will vote on March 25 on “financial stringency” authorizing Administration to make these cuts. More information is available in the Senate Budget & Finance Committee minutes. Please forward feedback & comments to your senators prior to the March 25 vote.

Questions & Comments include:

• Need details on how furlough would affect grant funded research
• Issue is not going away – need a mechanism for making difficult decisions, in addition to positive proclamations about program importance.
• Overwhelming call for transparency – make it understandable to faculty & students
• If there is a furlough, there needs to be some visible and tangible relief of duties and a global recognition that there is reduction of work.
• December 27 – 29 allows no visible impact to the public that faculty are affected. Needs to be a clear message to faculty & to the public. Recommend furlough the first week of the semester to make it visible.

IV. Brief Report from Standing Committees
Adjunct Faculty – Kathy Witherow (staff to AFCC) reported that the adjunct faculty consultative committee is meeting regularly. The most recent meeting included a conversation with Ilene Alexander from the Center for Teaching & Learning. AFCC is developing a survey to be distributed to all adjunct faculty. Responses will drive future agenda.

Centers Policy & Advisory – Bill Conway reported that they are looking at comments from the December meeting and will incorporate into a final report. They are also looking at protocols – both existing and new – for establishment of new Centers.

Curriculum – Bob Sykes reported that there is nothing to bring to the Assembly at this time. He requested that Faculty Assembly meeting dates be better coordinated to coincide with Curriculum Committee work.

Faculty Consultative – Kristine Miller reported that the FCC is working on a draft of a workload policy. They are developing an umbrella policy and expect that each unit will develop their own. Department heads should set policy within units. Document will be posted on the Web prior to the May Faculty Assembly.

Faculty Leave – Sherri Gahring reported that the committee met. There were 3 applications for Sabbatic leave and 5 applications for single semester leave. Proposals were evaluated on the criteria and recommendations were forwarded to the Dean.

Promotion & Tenure – Ann Ziebarth reported that the committee has completed its work; promotion dossiers are now in the hands of the Dean & Central Administration

V. Report from the Blue Ribbon Committee: Kristine Miller reported that the dean received a draft report, the Committee chairs met with the dean and the report is being circulated to the Committee for final comment. The Committee membership was diverse, the report will reflect that diversity and may include minority opinion. Brad Hokanson added that there was general agreement within the committee for planning at the College and Center levels. It was a vast report with limited time to absorb information. Lee Anderson shared that the report will reflect the “brainstorming” of topics rather than provide specific recommendations. This considered one step in an evolving process. Motion by Sykes, Second by Ziebarth to encourage Fisher to circulate the document to faculty. Motion passed (1 abstained, 0 no votes).

VI. Committee Terms: Steven McCarthy reported that Committee elections are scheduled to take place spring 2010. A solution is needed to the biennial cycle of all terms ending at the same time. Comments & feedback:

- This is a procedural matter, not requiring a change to the constitution or bylaws
- Suggestion to rotate people within committees rather than selecting whole committees to end terms
- Ask that 50% of committee members volunteer to stay on for another year
- Keep committee chairs appointed by the Faculty Assembly chair.
- A working method needs to be established before the next meeting.
Motion offered by Yust that the Chair of the Faculty Assembly work with elected committees to determine who will remain for 1 more year. Friendly amendment by Martin – at-large member terms should remain at 2 years. Motion passed (2 abstained, 0 no votes).

Tasoulla Hadjiyanni raised the issue of the absence of a Diversity Committee in the College of Design. Several faculty supported the comments and questioned the dissolution of the Diversity Committee. Motion made by Ann Ziebarth, seconded by Kristine Miller that the Constitution be
amended to include a Diversity Committee as an elected standing committee. Motion passed (4 abstained, 1 opposed).

VII.  **Budget Update**: Marilyn DeLong presented information about the FY10 and FY11 budget (see attached PowerPoint.) Marilyn and Kathy Witherow answered questions related to the presentation.

VIII. **New Business**: Steven McCarthy announced that the Collegiate Plan will be discussed and voted on at the May Faculty Assembly meeting.

IX. **Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 10:40

Minutes submitted 3/8/09
Kathy Witherow