Report of Activities of the University Committee on Faculty Affairs for AY 2011 - 2012

The UCFA took up several issues in AY 2011 - 2012. Jeevan Hoole was the CoE representative in Fall 2011 and the very early part of Spring 2012 when he was effectively removed with nothing in writing. Lalita Udpa took over as the CoE representative from March 2012.

The following issues were discussed/reviewed.

- Reviewed Conflict of Interest Policy
- Reviewed URO proposal
- Integrity of Student Assessment (for Online courses)
- Guidelines for Authorship
- Library and Fixed term appointment
- Search for new FGO
- Faculty merit and market pool salary
- Reviewed Campus master plan and parking implications
- Questions for 5 Year review of Provost
- 5 year review of the Secretary for Academic Governance
- Reviewed Appropriation request and budget guidelines
- Reviewed enrollment reports
- Reviewed FGO report
- Reviewed reports from HR about Best Docs Program, Prescription Drug and Long term care

The committee meets for an hour from 2:00 PM and then breaks up for another hour into its two subcommittees, one on finance and the other on personnel issues. We served on the latter.

Lalita Udpa was able to attend only 2 of the meetings in Spring 2012, on March 27, 2012 and April 14, 2012. Issues discussed at these meetings were

1. Campus Master Plan - The current and future projected plans for developing the university campus was presented. These developments were planned according to "smart growth" principles, i.e. clustering people and resources around teaching and research initiatives keeping the campus compact. He described plans for adding bike lanes that were safe and also some interesting "green" ideas for use of more bike and public / bus transportation within the campus and keeping parking to the edge of the campus.

2. In the context of campus development and parking, the college of music presented their concerns about the lack of parking space close to the college of music and how the parking problem was affecting the number of attendees, and hence the number of potential donors. They would like all faculty to get involved in this via the Campus Infrastructure Planning Work Group (CIPWG).

3. The UCFA discussed several concerns about the URO Exploration committee report. These concerns are detailed in the report from the UCFA subcommittee and are available on the UCFA website. The UCFA endorsed the URO concept and will wait for an update from the URO exploration committee after they have reviewed these concerns.

Projected activities in Fall 2012 are
• Review of Electronic voting procedures
• Development of a proposal for on-going academic governance participation in activities of HR and campus master plan
• Update on Conflict of interest policy
• Update on URO proposal
• Update from HR on Best Docs Program, Prescription Drug and Long term care individual plan options, Blue cross blue shields network plans and 2012-2013 HR healthcare plans
• Review of growth of MSU administrative positions

Jeevan Hoole is of the view that UCFA meetings are tightly scripted by the administration for purposes of endorsement of all that it is doing, with minutes produced at the last minute to NOT permit proper correction, and that for the meetings to be truly useful to the College of Engineering there must be some mechanism for its representative to report back regularly – for example how does the college gain by hearing in this short report that all these topics were discussed without being told of the issues and how they were resolved?

Thank you
Submitted by Lalita Udpa, Jeevan Hoole.