Meeting was called to order by Chair Rosenberg at 2:30.

Minutes from the Senate’s last meeting were approved.

Chancellor’s report was given by Interim Provost Hensrud; she had three points:

1) Searches for Provost, Dean of Faculties and Enrollment Management are in the planning stages. She solicited input from faculty by this Friday and will seek input from those eight or nine faculty members with split, 50/50% positions early next week regarding current institutional arrangements.

2) Our Inclusive Excellence initiative is moving forward with the recent conclusion of a climate survey. An open forum will be held October 14 at around 12 Noon to discuss the initiative. Eri Fujieda and Vicki Hajewski are leading our effort. More details to follow.

3) Faith reported President Reilly’s renewed commitment to the System’s Growth Agenda in the light of changes in funding levels at System. Our campus has committed to reaching its growth target largely by way of increased retention rates, moving from 44% to 54% by 2025. This semester’s tenth-day enrollment numbers showed a slippage of 2%, which, combined with our failure to achieve a 1% target commitment of annual growth through greater retention, reflect a 3% shortfall. Undergraduate and graduate program enrollments are down here and around the System schools. A study by the Dean of Graduate Studies will seek to determine the reasons for their decline; the Governor’s budget cuts and ending of collective bargaining over steps and ladders were suggested as possible factors. Distance Learning enrollments have shown large increases.

Provost’s report: four points:

1) in line with our campus’s new planning procedure, CIPT will hold a retreat to discuss institutional priorities, which will then be referred to the Provost’s Leadership Team, with an open forum in mid-October. Investment priorities will not rest on expectations of new funding sources but on reallocations of existing monies.
2) Faith stressed the importance of timely submission of programs’ reports on setting and reaching goals in association with WEAVE and the Academic Program Review Council.

3) Faith mentioned that the HLC self-study is moving along; more details to come.

4) Faith is co-chair of the System’s AA Degree Committee, and she reported on the recommendation to come this October that there be more flexibility for UW four-year campuses to develop AA, AS and AAS degree programs. UW Colleges have been given permission to develop bachelor’s degree programs pending HLC consultation and program review. The argument is that this development has opened the way for UW four-year schools to have greater flexibility in offering the two-year degree.

Chair’s report; four points:

1) minutes approved from the summer’s meetings of the Executive Committee.

2) Steve urged all faculty councils and committees to send their minutes and other document to Linda Sharp (lsharp1@uwsuper.edu) in timely fashion for inclusion on the Senate’s Webpage. This will aid our HLC effort.

3) The UW System Board of Regents will meet on our campus this April. Ideas are solicited that will involve the Board in the life of the campus.

4) Faculty are asked both to volunteer time and ideas to prepare for the Chancellor’s Inauguration that is coming up.

Faculty Representative Sloboba’s report; five points:

1) There will be a faculty rep meeting next week and retreat later.

2) BOR meeting on campus in April.

3) Report on UW President Reilly’s Advisory Committee on the UW System; see handout attached.

4) The System has sustained a budget cut of $250m and a loss of 51 FTE’s.
5) The System is streamlining its new program proposal process. Rather than the current system of several layers of checks and reports both on individual campuses and with System, the process will take less time and effort. The System will retain a gate-keeping role in insuring that campuses retain their individual identities through such unique, signature programs on our campus as Transportation and Logistics, Educational Leadership and Legal Studies.

-AAC report; three items:

1) Recommendation from the HLC Assessment Academy Team to remove “and inclination” from the Liberal Education Learning Goals (LELG’s) as incapable of measurement. Approved by Senate; I voted in the affirmative. Monica and Shevaun were present from our department at the Senate meeting for discussion.

2) Request from Registrar Douglas to adopt a policy whereby meeting graduation GPA requirements would be based on truncating GPA averages at the third decimal point rather than rounding; the effect of this would be that a student reporting a GPA of 1.999 at graduation would be unable to meet the graduation requirement of a 2.0 GPA at that time. If we rounded, the student would meet the requirement. Registrar Douglas reported that she had never heard of this policy, though study revealed that rounding up is the majority procedure in the UW System. Approved by Senate; I voted in the negative.

3) Various catalogue changes instituted by Registrar Douglas; reported without vote by the Senate. Changes will be rolled out 9/26; chairs to learn changes this Monday.

A discussion of personnel procedures from the Personnel Council was brought up for discussion as old business. It was moved and seconded to approve the procedures so that we could discuss and make amendments.

-An amendment by Terri Kronzer was approved that moved that SoTL activities be moved from those activities with a department MAY consider in making personnel decisions to those which a department MUST consider, should a candidate present them. Approved by Senate; I voted in the affirmative.

-I made an amendment that those sentences in the templates which seemed to restrict the modes by which a faculty member can satisfy requirements for tenure (for example, the Tenure Review Template, B 1: “The faculty member must
publish, present, or perform.”) be changed to “and/or” as in the sentence immediately preceding. Approved by the Senate; I voted in the affirmative.

CommArts Senator Brent Notbohm then read his department’s forceful and articulate indictment of the Personnel Council for exceeding its mandate. He complained that the document impermissibly overrode department procedures already long in place, and he urged the Senate to vote down the document and return it to the Council for revisions consistent with its mandate. Discussion ensued. I stated our concerns that the templates did not specify their relation to departmental practices, rules and procedures, such as the use of portfolios. I suggested that a preamble be added to spell out those relationships and the intended scope of the templates as providing flexibility within a broad and common structure. I noted that the templates were silent as to post-tenure review and that they did not explicitly describe the roles of the department, provost, promotion and review committee or the chancellor in personnel processes. It was noted that no explicit statement was made as to the effective date of the proposed changes.

A memo from the Transportation and Logistics Department was distributed. Senator Jerry Hembd questioned the application of the definition of faculty peer to one in his position in outreach. A number of departments had not read or commented on the documents.

-Senator Notbohm then urged that the templates be voted down and moved that the Personnel Council be instructed to solicit and react to department comments on the templates by November 1. Because I did not want the work of the Council to be lost in endless discussion, especially in light of our department’s positive vote on the templates and our possible need to revise our personnel rules in light of them, I added the amendment, which was taken as friendly, that the Council be further instructed to report back the documents to the Senate by December 1. Approved by the Senate; I voted in the affirmative.

New business, including the resolution in recognition of the late Jay Wolterstorff, was put off. The Senate adjourned.

Submitted by George Wright, Senator, HBJD
September 21, 2011

(I have mentioned only those persons and units that gave reports.)