Senate Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2012

1. **Approval of May Minutes:** The May 10th, 2012 minutes were approved.

2. **Motion to Suspend Agenda:** Chair Harknett introduced a motion to suspend the agenda so that the senate could consider a motion to adjourn for the summer. Board of Trustees Representative Marla Hall motioned to suspend the July and August 2012 senate meetings. This motion was unanimously approved by the Senate. Chair Harknett reminded everyone that if it was needed the Senate could be called into session by our new Chair Richard Miller or President Williams. The Faculty Senate is on call for the summer of 2012.

3. **Report of the Chair, Richard Harknett, Chair of Faculty Senate**
The Chair’s report is available on the Faculty Senate Website.

4. **Elections, Dennis O’Neill**
Chair of the Committee on Committees, Dennis O’Neill introduced a ballot for the 2012 elections. There were nominations from the floor. Adrienne Lane made a nomination from the floor for the Athletics Advisory Council for Anna Vandemaja. Chair-Elect Richard Miller asked that Afsaneh Ardehali’s (CEAS) name be struck from the ballot for the Academic Affairs and Human Relations committee since this faculty member is not seeking reappointment. Once nominations from the floor closed, the senate completed the ballots. Chair Harknett thanked the senate for getting faculty to run for office and for our continued service in these efforts.

5. **Discussion with Director of Athletics, Whit Babcock**
Chair Harknett welcomed Whit Babcock. Mr. Babcock began by saying that he believes athletics should be a part of higher education. He said that after introductions he wanted this to be a question and answer session for senators. He talked about his education and work background, and his family. He also discussed how Athletics is working on its strategic plan for UC 2019. Chair-Elect Richard Miller asked why academic colleges are told they have to take cuts in support because they can be somewhat self-supporting (they can get grants to support themselves or more students enrolled etc.), while Athletics seems to be insulated from that type of thinking. Babcock said that there are very few athletics departments (maybe only 9 or 10 in the country) that can operate on their own without help from their universities. He said that the supplement (the investment) the University gives to Athletics is only 2% of the operating budget. This is important because Athletics is usually the face of the University. The first thing people see. Babcock said that part of their strategic plan will be to make sure that the supplement does not go higher and that it can be decreased over time. He agreed that they can find ways to raise money. He said that he knows that they have to do better. Chair-Elect Richard Miller said that at some point we have to operate at a profit. Senator-At-Large, Daniel Langmeyer asked if they integrate intramurals into athletics. Babcock said that he does not have oversight of intramurals. Daniel also wanted to know how we can integrate athletics and academics better than we do now. Babcock said that they are working on this in their strategic plan, and they have areas of their department charged with that issue. We should see changes in these relationships over time. Out of 525 student athletes about 15% of athletes are at academic risk. Athletics works to provide support for student athletes who are at risk
academically. About half of the student athletes have grade point averages of 3.0 or better. Both Babcock and Chair Harknett said that we as a University need to do a better job of letting people inside and outside of UC know about the academic successes of our athletes. Senator Susan Boland asked about the specifics of the strategic plan. The strategic plan is in its infancy but they have identified eight key goals. These goals range from how they can improve competitively to how they are going to become more self-sufficient financially. Another goal is to enhance their Life Skills Program. This program is concerned with how they develop their athletes outside of academics and athletics – social skills, financial management, domestic abuse etc. Senator Arlene Johnson asked if their strategic plan would be transparent. Babcock said that as soon as it is finished it will be available to the university community. Senator Jeff Tilmann asked about title nine compliance deficiencies and how the strategic plan would address those deficiencies. Babcock says they are looking closely at gender differences in scholarship dollars for student athletes. They are making progress which is what the government looks at. UC gives about 10% more dollars for males as opposed to females. Chair Harknett mentioned the budget again and talked about transparency. He discussed more sustainability and how we would like to support that effort. He said the senate would be here as a partner in that effort. Chair-Elect Richard Miller will be a part of the advisory council.

6. **FSAAC Resolution on Grading Policy, Senator-At-Large Adrienne Lane**
   This academic year the FSAAC had a sub-committee that looked at the UC grading policy, including issues like the grade replacement policy and the grade grievance policy. The subcommittee compared our policy to 15 other AAU grading policies. There were no real grading policy changes – just clarification and explanation of grading policy. The current grading policy has very little explanation. The new grading policy is revised with more explanation. Senator-At-Large Daniel Langmeyer voiced his approval of the new policy. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **Resolution on Bearcat Bond, Chair-Elect Richard Miller**
   The undergraduate student government and the graduate student association both passed this resolution. This came about from a meeting with Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Judicial Affairs Daniel Cummins and student representatives. This is the beginning of an honor code and it communicates to new students our campus values and what behaviors we expect of them as University of Cincinnati students. It will be used for the first time in our fall convocation. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Undergraduate Student Government Report**
   There was no report.

9. **Graduate Student Government Report**
   There was no report.

10. **AAUP President Report, Gregory Loving, Ph.D.**
    There was no report.

11. **Closing remarks as Senate Chair, Chair Richard Harknett**
    Richard thanked all of us for our hard work the last two years. He also thanked the cabinet and gave presents to cabinet members. Chair-Elect Richard Miller gave Richard his present from the senate.
Chair Harknett said that over time we have improved our access to the President and the Provost. Chair Harknett meets with the Provost as our representative on a monthly basis. We now have a schedule in place where the Cabinet and the Chair meet with the President at the beginning of the month, the full senate meets with the Provost and the President in the middle of the month and at the end of the month the Chair of the Senate meets one on one with the Provost. In passing the Integrated Decision Making Model, we have advanced in our ability to gain access to the individuals we need to have access to. Chair Harknett informed the senate that the Provost wants to make his input session more advisory in its structure. Provost Ono wants an agenda within an agenda. Chair Harknett and Chair-Elect Miller will work on this with the Provost.

Chair Harknett asked if there were any new announcements. There were none.

Chair Harknett also indicated that we should take advantage of our access to the Board of Trustees through our Board of Trustees Representatives. It is an important body for us to liaison with.

12. Provost Input Session, Provost Santa Ono

Chair Harknett said to the Provost that the IDMM (Integrated Decision Making Model) takes us more into an advisory relationship with him. Chair Harknett asked Provost Ono how we should set up the session with the Provost from now on to reflect this change. The Provost felt that we should decide before he comes to the meeting what we would like to discuss with him. He indicated that there are important issues that we will want to discuss with him in the coming year, for example there is going to be a push to increase the amount of fund raising to 125 million dollars a year. We currently bring in about 90 million dollars a year. We expect that state support will continue to decline over the next year. This will necessitate our having discussions with the Provost about the university budget. This issue will in turn impact the upcoming contract negotiations.

Chair-Elect Richard Miller asked about the Provost Committee on Teaching Excellence (PCOTE) and the direction it is taking. Chair Harknett said that there is an FDC grant in Arts and Sciences which Howard Jackson and a few others got together. The focus of it is to look at mechanisms by which we can have peer exchange over teaching on the same modality that we function with research. He mentioned the brown bag system as a standard way of getting feedback from colleagues before submitting your manuscript for publication. We don’t apply that model to the classroom. Why not? Why not apply it to the classroom? We do not have to go to evaluation like RPT. We can do it more like research. PCOTE is watching to see what happens with this FDC grant. The end result of this should be to come up with a set of best practices. It is about culture change. It is a commitment from the institution to improve teaching. The focus of PCOTE is to help the professor become a better teacher. This is formative. This is separate from RPT and teaching evaluation. This group is just trying to improve teaching. This fall semester 2012 the FDC group will be sitting in on classes to develop best practices. This will be done instead of a CETL workshop.

Provost Ono said that the trustees don’t feel that they have enough interaction with the faculty. He asked if we want the trustees to come to senate meetings with him. He said he set up a retreat with the Board of Trustees members and the senate, if we want it. Chair Harknett said it
would be good for us to have substantive interactions with the trustees. Provost Ono offered to host a dinner with the senate and the trustees. There was discussion of Whit Babcock’s meeting with senate. The Provost said that we give 15 million to athletics.
Senator Arlene Johnson asked him to talk about new hires in high level offices. She also asked about scholarly publishing. The Provost said that he would send a summary to the senate of what the university is doing in regard to electronic textbooks assessment and distance learning. Apple computing has spoken with the Provost regarding assistance in providing online resources. No final decisions have been made. There are funds in the current budget for creating high tech platforms for the classroom (streaming lectures like MIT – e publishing scholarship for faculty). Provost Ono is looking for potential hires to provide this to the University. Regarding the Vice Provost International search, two finalists have been on campus and have given lectures. The Dean of the Library Search has two key finalists right now. The Chief Information Officer Search has three finalists and has not made a decision. We have high ability candidates, and the searches are in a sensitive stage. The Vice President of Research Search will begin shortly. Bob Zierolf will run for Dean of the Graduate School. There will be a national search for that position. Provost Ono thanked all of us and said that he enjoyed interacting with us. He thanked Chair Harknett for his service and gave him a gift.

13. **Adjournment** – The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by the Secretary of the University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate,
Wanda C. McCarthy, Ph.D.