Members Present: Dawn Blasko, Robin Bower, Mark Casteel, Daniel Hagen, Patricia Hinchey, Pamela Hufnagel, Jonna Kulikowich, Jeffrey Laman, Cynthia Robinson, Keith Shapiro, James Strauss, Brenton Yarnal

Members Absent: Larry Backer, Christopher Long

Chair Cynthia Robinson called the meeting to order and requested approval of the September 10, 2013 minutes. The minutes were approved on a Casteel/Hagen motion. Robinson provided a brief overview of the Officers and Chairs meeting noting that the Senate will receive a report on MOOCs at the December 10 meeting from Vice President/Vice Provost Craig Weidemann.

Old Business:

Revisions to the Guidelines for Faculty Organizations for transmittal to Senate Council: Hufnagel reviewed the revisions that were made to the document since the last meeting, including references to part-time faculty. There was a brief discussion on the delegation of authority from the University Faculty Senate to colleges and campuses. On a Blasko/Strauss motion the revisions to the document were approved and will be forwarded to Senate Council and the Unit Constitution Subcommittee for review and approval.

Implementation of Senate Self-Study committee recommendations #2, 3, 4, 7, 8 (Bylaws amendments) and #1, 5, 6 (Standing Rule amendments): Shapiro initiated the discussion in relation to the Self-Study report’s language regarding the “duties of senators,” e.g., senators “must,” or are “expected to...” Bower commented on the discussion of plenary and committee meeting attendance and provisions and consequences. Both Strauss and Shapiro observed it would be helpful to speak with committee chair Mohamad Ansari to obtain clarification on the intent of the Self-Study committee in relation to absenteeism and provisions for alternates and unit requests for exceptions to the Bylaws regarding Senate absences.

Other members suggested reviewing the floor debate in the Senate Record on the section Roles and Duties of Senators. Robinson asked that the CC&R subcommittee comprised of Bower, Shapiro, and Strauss frame the Self-Study committee recommendations (both Robinson’s and Shapiro’s drafts) for review by CC&R at the December 10 meeting.

Revision to Senate Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, Delegation of Authority: Physician Assistant MS program: Robinson explained that this legislative report was withdrawn from the October 8 Senate Council agenda following concerns raised by Vice President Pangborn regarding the elimination of references to 700-level College of Medicine courses. Robinson pointed out that the document originally submitted by John Boehmer on behalf of the College of Medicine had only one strike-through of a 700-level course reference and the remaining two
700-level references remained intact. On a Casteel/Hagen motion this legislative report will be resubmitted for the November 19 Senate Council meeting.

**Convening Senate Council during the Summer Months:** Yarnal provided an overview of previous Senate Council discussion on this topic. There was strong support from CC&R to have a meeting date on the Senate calendar for Senate Council to meet, as necessary, in late June or early July. Several members noted the ease of access via audio and video-conference, while other members commented on Skype and FaceTime calls. Strauss offered the following motion that was endorsed by CC&R following a Hagen/Shapiro motion: **CC&R recommends that an additional meeting of Senate Council be added to the 2014-2015 Senate calendar.** This meeting will be held on the last Tuesday in June and may be canceled two weeks prior to the date if there are no significant matters for deliberation, as determined by the Senate officers.

**New Business:**

**Senate Committee on Faculty Benefits:** A possible need for membership revision was presented by Laman and Yarnal citing the steep learning curve and complexities of Senate committees such as Faculty Benefits and Intercollegiate Athletics. They both emphasized the need for continuity of membership on these committees and the possible need for legislating a vice chair who might eventually move into the chair role. Yarnal then commented on how several Senate committees have extensive membership distribution requirements, e.g., Curricular Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Intra-University Relations. He went on to note that CC&R may wish to revisit some of these distribution requirements. This will be a future CC&R agenda item.

**Overview of Retired Senator Election:** Youtz provided a brief overview of the election process, noting that these elections occur every two years and Peter Jurs’ Senate term will expire in spring 2014. CC&R will be provided with a roster of faculty who have retired in the last ten years and who also served as senators. The leadership of the Retired Faculty-Staff Club is also contacted for nominations. The election will be conducted in spring 2014 and the results will be announced at the March 2014 Senate meeting.

**2002-2013 Senate Demographic Profile:** This demographic snapshot of the Senate is done every two years and will be posted to the Senate website.

**Other Topics for Discussion:** Strauss commented on the delay associated with campus senators casting their votes on Mediasite at the September 24 special Senate meeting. He also urged that Senate office staff not reveal the full vote until all votes have been cast and tallied. Blasko announced there was a presentation and extensive discussion about the Affordability Care Act and implications for part-time faculty at the October 21, 2013, Joint Committee on Insurance and Benefits meeting. She commented that the Office of Human Resources anticipates that some part-time faculty will become benefit-eligible under the ACA provisions and new University guidelines.
Hinchey asked about the location of information for removing personal data from the WebMD site. [Post-meeting note: See Question 18 in Eligibility, Site Access, and Completion Confirmation: http://ohr.psu.edu/benefits/benefits-enrollment/take-care-of-your-health/faq/]

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Susan C. Youtz