Members Present: Mike Porter (Bottineau), Milan Christianson (NDSCS), Ann Smith (NDSCS), Gilbert Kuipers (VCSU), LoAnn Nelson (LRSC), Patti Heisler (MaSU), Harlene Hatterman-Valenti (NDSU), Ernst Pijning (MiSU), Lisa Borden-King (MiSU), Shirley Wilson (BSC), Neil Mueller (NDSU), Tom Barnhart (NDSU), James Wright (BSC)

Members Absent: Donald Poochigian (UND), Jon Jackson (UND), Les Bieber (WSC), Fernando Quijano (DSU)

Guests: Mike Hillman (NDUS)

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair, Shirley Wilson

Approval of minutes of May 10, 2007 – (Mike moved, LoAnn seconded) Minutes approved

AAC Report: Harlene Hatterman-Valenti: Harlene has been attending the monthly meetings throughout the summer. The main discussion of interest to faculty is discussion of drop/add dates. Due to the collaborative student initiative, we are working on common drop/add dates. A subcommittee has been established (and has met once) to continue this discussion to arrive at common drop/add dates. The most recent table indicated that the last day to add went from ten calendar days to 17 at Minot. The last day to drop is 9 weeks at Minot to 15 weeks. Another discussion has focused on the FBI fingerprint criminal background check and trying to figure out who needs to complete this. There is a concern that if one institution asks for all medical students and another does not that there will be problems. The fingerprinting is expensive and is only valid for a certain period of time, thus occasionally necessitating that students complete them more than once. On another topic, Randall Thursby gave a presentation on ConnectND. He really stressed that the easiest way to make Connect ND work for all institutions is for us to work together. There will be an effort to arrive at areas of commonality so that institution specific modifications are kept to a minimum. Finally we discussed how to show our productivity to the legislature in a way that they understand. Accreditation of high school diplomas was also discussed. The chancellor’s concern is that if we don’t have all the institutions on the same policy one institution may become a dumping ground so we need commonality regarding what is accepted as a high school diploma. During conversation following Harlene’s presentation, Lisa pointed out that the drop date for Minot reported at AAC is incorrect. Harlene indicated she would mention this at the next meeting.
**SBHE Report: Tom Barnhart:** There are four other new members of the Board besides Tom. The new Chancellor is committed to moving forward and re-establishing the perceived authority of the State Board. There are three presidential searches going on at the moment. Tom mentioned (and this has been discussed previously) that it seems strange that the faculty representative doesn’t have a vote (whereas the student member does). There is a legislative council meeting coming up on Sept 26/27 focused on efficiency in higher education. Mike Hillman indicated that the agenda is out on the legislative council website. Mike will forward the agenda to Shirley. The committee is bringing in “efficiency experts” – after that they will move on to other areas of discussion relevant to the topic. Mike wonders if we need more faculty members there than just Tom. Shirley indicated she would attend. Finally, we should discuss when we want our joint meeting with the State Board. They have Sept 20th in Minot or Nov 15th in Devils Lake.

**Discussion:** September 20th seems too soon to find topics and get organized. So we will go for the Nov 15 date and Tom will put in request. LoAnn will find a meeting room so we can have lunch. Shirley wonders if we need a subcommittee to explore this issue of “proof of worthiness.” The voting status of the faculty representative appears to be hinged on how that person is appointed. The governor appoints the student representative. So, if CCF wishes to continue to elect/appoint the representative, then that representative won’t have a vote.

**Old Business: Arts and Humanities Summit:** The summit will occur on Oct 9th and 10th (2008) in Bismarck. There have been a couple of IVN meetings for a statewide committee working on this. The committee will be meeting on the following dates: Oct 4th, Nov 15th, and Dec 6th. If anyone else would like to serve on this committee, let Shirley know.

**Committees:** We have discussed establishing four separate committees (promotion salary issues, the TIAA CREF issue, the concerns around professional development and course access and, now today, the idea of “proof of worthiness.”)

**Promotion Salary Issue:** should we seek a system wide formula for this? If so, what should that formula be? TIAA CREF issue (recommendations regarding increased TIAA CREF to reward longevity). Professional Development (tuition waivers, where/how/for what etc). “Proof of Worthiness” (we had discussed trying to figure out the economic benefit of the institutions to the state as a whole.) Finally, we need to decide if we want to send some other people to Sept 26/27 meeting.

**Promotion** salary discussion: Tom proposed last year a flat percent (10%) of salary across all institutions as the set amount for increases in rank. Lisa indicated concern over the use of a percent given the gap between more recently hired faculty and those with many years of service in relation to salary. In addition, this approach may increase significant gaps between those in different disciplines. Mike Porter suggested a set percentage of average faculty salaries. Patti indicated that there are different economics in the different areas (average prices of homes for example). Since Lisa, Patti, and Mike all talked they were promptly assigned to the committee. They will work with Mike Hillman as a resource and will bear in mind the State Board budget cycle.
TIAA CREF: The basic issue here is increase in contributions – retention needs to be improved. Perhaps by contributing more to retirement we could help this. Where is our percent contribution relative to other states? Mike isn’t sure but if you look at the whole faculty situation in ND including salaries and benefits we are fairly well off. However, with the lowest salaries in the nation it is not a bad thing to increase benefits. Members decided that this issue would be given to the committee on promotion.

Professional Development: AAC has been talking about this issue since late last spring. Mike indicated that AAC had just reached the point where they wanted to partner with Student Affairs, CCF and AAC to form a committee. Leslie and LoAnn will serve on the committee (Leslie was appointed in her absence due to her interest in this area last spring).

Sept 26/27 meeting in Bismarck: Shirley will attend the 26/27 meeting in Bismarck. Tom wonders if we should create some kind of sleek brochure … Shirley reminded members that last year we tried to get the HERI report into that form but it was a huge struggle. Mike Porter asked if institutions have data on faculty performance such as the FESSE. Harlene stated that we already have numerous reports that show we are very productive and efficient but the legislature seems to have their own ideas. Mike discussed productivity at length in terms of reality and perceptions of those around the state. Neil asked if there is a state out there with a model that would be productive for us that we would want to share. Mike stated that the legislature would have to put money in to take us to next level – if we save money by finding a common learning management system then that money ought to go back into faculty salaries -- or perhaps we could eliminate student fees as the result of a state investment.

“Proof of Worthiness”: Mike thinks there is benefit there but that we could accomplish the same goal through case study. Currently, the state is very interested in the number of students who start full time and who never complete. The NDUS office surveyed students who were non-completers and they indicated that advising was high on the list of reasons for non-completion. Overall Mike says we need to phrase things in relation to retention (advising, etc) in order to make the connection between our perceptions and those of the legislature. Milan suggested that higher education should pursue ideas such as oil severance tax to provide a money stream for higher education. Mike indicated that the key challenge of that is pegging it to higher education. If we could get the higher education budget pegged at the 21 percent of the budget, it would mean that as we help the state grow we would get more money. Neil Mueller, Ernst Pijning, and Ann Smith volunteered for this committee.

Mike Porter asked if at the meetings on the 26th and the 27th attendees would have an opportunity to ask questions or speak. Mike indicated that it will mostly be a lecture format. The NDUS encouraged them to use a roundtable format but they went with this instead.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45