The meeting was called to order by Chair Victor Hebert at 2 pm.

Old Business:

The chair expressed his intention to have committees organized and chairs in place by the beginning of next academic year. He also wants senators to understand the practical functions of committees and their relationship to the working of the university.

The chair asked for clarification of the English 108 proposal on the question of whether the new course would require new faculty or new resources because this information was missing from the proposal discussed at the previous meeting. Dr. Brooks questioned the discussion of a motion already passed. The chair answered that the proposal had not yet been passed on.

Dr. Ochsner, Chair of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, was called upon for clarification, and he distributed an addendum containing the information omitted from the original proposal: the addendum states that there will be no new faculty or new resources needed. A copy of the addendum is on file with the hard copy of these minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal.

The chair cited the possibility of a surplus of students unable to complete English 108 and asked if such a surplus would not eventually burden the department. Ochsner answered no, the number of sections of English 108 would be small and the number of such a surplus thus insignificant.

Other questions about English 108 were raised: Dr. Mutisya questioned the wisdom of using the SAT as a measuring tool. Ochsner answered that the SAT, combined with other instruments, was useful, and Dr. Jon Young concurred.

Dr. Brooks asked how, if there is a UNC system-wide ban on remedial courses, such a course can be defended. Ochsner answered that students could conceivably move from 108 into 120; also that the focus of 108 is sociolinguistic, that students would be in such a course for never having had formal instruction in grammar and usage; also that 108 will prevent the bi-polar distribution of abilities in 110; also that the 108 proposal recognizes the separation of grammar and rhetoric, two distinct components of the classical trivium. Dr. Young observed that 12 other UNC sister institutions offer a course similar to English 108, and that there is no ban on remedial courses.
The chair expressed his intent to keep this matter open for revisitation on two grounds: the use of the SAT as a measuring instrument; the possibility of offering courses that are remedial or perceived to be so. The motion passed unanimously, no abstentions.

New Business:

The chair distributed copies of documents by which the faculty and Faculty Senate are governed and asked that senators study them before the next meeting in order that new governing instruments may be developed. The chair also asked that senators verse themselves in parliamentary procedure, and suggested that an abridged version of Robert’s Rules may be made available to every senator.

The chair expressed his hope that senators will take the Senate’s discussions back to their respective departments and also that senators will bring departmental concerns before the Senate. He also charged each senator to identify specific concerns that need to be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Recorded by,

G. McConnell