1. CALL TO ORDER, CHAIR, Dr. Joseph Johnson.
2. CHAIR’S REPORT. Chairman Joseph Johnson welcomed the group and had them to introduce themselves briefly. He explained the IDA (Information, Discussion, and Action) format. He shared that it is meant to prioritize time given to items. The discussion about a proposed four-day work week would be moved to New Discussions. He spoke of his intent to have pictures of the Faculty Senate posted on the web. Dr. Johnson announced that he and the Provost will have regularly scheduled meetings. He thanked Provost, Dr. Jon Young, and mentioned that the Provost’s address will always be placed at beginning of meeting in the interest of his time.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion by Modibo Kadalie to accept Agenda. Second by Trela Anderson. Motion passed.
4. MINUTES APPROVAL FOR MAY 11, 2009 MEETING. Amended items: Maria Orban, Dean Swinson, and Todd Frobish were determined not to be current members of the Faculty Senate. Dothang Truong was a current member, along with Charletta Barringer-Brown. Jimmie Williams was present at the meeting. Motion by Don Okhomina. Seconded by Maurice Mongkuo.
5. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST. Dr. Jon Young, FSU Provost, thanked the faculty for their work. Enrollment this fall is approximately the same as last year (6031 this year, compared to 6072 in 2008). FSU currently generates 70,640 SCH (student credit hours), but we need more than 80,000. The budget is driven by
SCH. The course load of each student can affect SCH, so advisors were encouraged to tell students to take more if it was feasible for their abilities and situation.

6. Dr. Young mentioned FSU 2.0. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 to remain in good academic standing. He also explained the Extension Grades policy, which allows students in academic trouble to sign a contract (by the fifth week of class). This contract would obligate the student to engage in academic support. If the student still failed the class, he/she could take it again in the following semester to improve the grade.

7. Dr. Young shared that academic support needs to be increased to avoid a loss of students due to higher GPA standards. He also stated his focused notion of faculty development. He believes that the institution can support faculty retention through support of their movement toward reappointment and tenure. Faculty development facilitates this process.

8. Chet Dilday asked about the effects of the administration/student ratio on accreditation. Jon Young answered that the number of administrators (deans and above) increased from approximately 65 in 2003 to 74 in 2008. However, student enrollment increased by 24%, a higher rate than the rise in administrators. He did acknowledge the political impact or appearance of the administrative increase. He noted that the organizational structure at Academic Affairs is undergoing scrutiny in a time of change.

9. Dr. Young clarified that a Returning student is a readmit who has returned after an absence. Continuing students were enrolled in the previous semester. Students who were on academic suspension one time must now go through the appeals process. This applies a higher standard than previous years.

10. Kassem Abdelmajid asked about the budget crisis. “Is there a budget for faculty travel?” Jon Young mentioned that FSU will try to provide some funds, but is subject to the decisions of the Governor Bev Purdue.

11. Jon Young and Joseph Johnson addressed the fact that the Teaching and Learning Center was cut by mandate from the state legislature. Due to the importance of faculty development, the Center will continue to function by another name or through other means.

12. Don Okhomina asked whether a professor create a structure to help students academically, such as scheduling regular meetings during office hours (for extension grades). Jon Young indicated that it was one strategy that could be used and reminded faculty to complete contracts for extension grades by the fifth week of the semester. He also cautioned faculty to avoid student abuses of the Incomplete (I) grade if they have not performed well all semester.
13. When asked about offering the extension grade to online courses, Dr. Young answered that extension grades can be used. He also suggested the use of extra exams, Smarthinking, or other methods of academic support to help students.

14. Blanche Radford-Curry asked if students would be able to make registration changes after the deadline? Jon Young answered that once the Drop-Add period ends Aug. 26, registrations will not be changed.

15. Daniel Autrey mentioned the following scenario: If students fail to pay in time, they will be removed from roster. How might faculty be made aware of changes to their roster? Jon Young answered that he couldn’t promise that e-mails would be sent to faculty to notify them, so check the roster periodically.

16. Maurice Mongkuo stated that the policy of encouraging students to enroll in more courses should be driven by their GPA. Jon Young replied that students should be asked to take more courses only if they can handle the responsibility, not arbitrarily.

17. Don Okhomina posed the following question: If student tries to enter a closed class and instructor will/cannot take anymore, what should be done? Jon Young answered: If the student really needs the class, think about SCH and try to accommodate the student only if it is possible. The decisions of faculty will be respected. Joseph Johnson mentioned that it is the faculty member’s call: They can let in ten more, but where do you set limits on enrollment, since they may not add new sections?

18. Chet Dilday gave the following report: Over the summer, John Mattox and Chet Dilday represented FSU at the state legislature. They attended an Executive Committee retreat, discussed budget items, and met the new Vice Pres. of Academic Affairs and the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. Joseph Johnson mentioned that the budget would’ve been much worse without Judith Wegner’s advocacy with the legislators. FSU used attrition and fared better than some other institutions. North Carolina is governed by a biennial budget, so the budget crisis will still be ongoing. Chet Dilday mentioned that legislators are concerned about what we actually do at FSU. They seem to think we work nine hours a week, so there is a need to educate legislators and the public. Joseph Johnson mentioned that we have to be careful about the language we use, particularly “release time”, which encourages people to believe that nothing is being done during that time. He suggested the term “reassigned time” instead, to indicate that the time is used productively. Chet Dilday mentioned that support staff is also very affected by budget cuts so we should be supportive of efforts to maintain funding. John Mattox said that we can support them at the state level. Joseph Johnson was complementary of Judith Wegner’s efforts with Staff Senate chairs.
19. OLD BUSINESS. Election of Parliamentarian. Joseph Johnson said that the Executive Committee supports the nomination of Chet Dilday as Parliamentarian, for his history, his institutional memory, and his reputation. The motion was made by Chuck Tryon and seconded by Heather Griffiths. Jianshi Wu was nominated by Soni Martin, but he declined. Heather Griffiths moved to close nominations, Maurice Mongkuo seconded. Chet Dilday expressed appreciation for the support, and accepted the nomination. He was elected with the following votes: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

20. Joseph Johnson called for the revision of Faculty handbooks. A lot of work has been done on the Faculty Governance Charter and it will be a priority.

21. Susan Hesseltine will work on Faculty Senate web page. Joseph Johnson reiterated that images of Senate members should appear on the website.

22. Blanche Radford-Curry mentioned that hard copies of the work (16,000 pages) that was done on the Governance document is available from Maurice Mongkuo (It may contain comments on each chapter of the handbook from B. Radford-Curry, J. Mattox, and M. Mongkuo).

23. Chet Dilday mentioned that there are some things that occur that may not be included in the policy. This needs to be addressed for the sake of the accreditation documentation. Joseph Johnson said it would have to be done by 2010. Maurice Mongkuo mentioned the great amount of work involved in the handbook (human resource, legal issues, etc.). There are gaps in stated policies regarding faculty procedures that may affect the ability of faculty to legally defend themselves. Joseph Johnson asked about the staff person (Wanda Jenkins, General Counsel) who is working with the document and inquired about the location of an electronic copy. The electronic copy is likely with Legal Services. John Mattox stated that it is also located on the Faculty Senate drive.

24. The Faculty Senate office is in 220, Chick Building. Joseph Johnson is in talks with the Provost to have it moved to a convenient, visible space. Office hours have not yet been established. Maurice Mongkuo supported the move by noting that the current space was too small to conduct some of the meetings and work that needed to occur.

25. Joseph Johnson stated that we are still operating under current charter. It’s important to make revisions for improvement.

26. Joseph Johnson invited the Senate to support the idea of extending meetings by 15 minutes through the consensus of the entire group.

27. Joseph Johnson identified the Beta test of Faculty Assessment Instrument as a premier collegiality tool. It will be implemented in 2010. He encouraged the faculty to embrace it. He suggested that people should not speak ill of the old process, since it has been successful for many faculty members.
28. Soni Martin thanked the Task Force that worked on Faculty Assessment for the past five years. She shared that the Deans and Chairs are now in charge of the Faculty Assessment, not the Task Force. However, the Task Force will continue to give workshops on the new instrument. Soni Martin will be sending short, efficient notes on the process.

29. NEW BUSINESS. Joseph Johnson said that the Faculty Lecture series is a great concept. He suggested posting educational videos online. Susan Hesseltine needs 25 to post. This is the same concept as YouTube Faculty Spotlights.

30. Joseph Johnson proposed a funded Faculty Senate Retreat to the Provost for this fall. He suggested that it is useful to have people to connect in an environment conducive to positive, productive interaction.

31. Modibo Kadalie said that FSU could advance the idea of a four day week. Kassem Abdelmajid mentioned that when he worked in New Jersey, four days for classes, last day for meetings or other tasks. Blanche Radford-Curry said that the problem was with scheduling labs during the same four days. Joseph Johnson mentioned that we would continue the discussion.

32. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is the third Thursday, Sept. 17, in the Lyons Science Annex, room 120.

33. Blanche Radford-Curry would like the Senate to consider allowances for parking as an incentive for Faculty Senate members. Joseph Johnson agreed that he is discussing this with Provost.

34. MEETING ADJOURNED. Modibo Kadalie moved to adjourn and the meeting concluded.