CALL TO ORDER. Dr. Joseph Johnson.
II. CHAIR’S REPORT.

A. Dr. Johnson introduced, Liwei Tang, the graduate assistant for the Faculty Senate. She is a Doctoral candidate for the program of Educational Leadership. Ms. Tang recently returned from her research efforts in China.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Motion by Dr. Maurice Mongkuo, seconded by Dr. Modibo Kadalie

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

A. Motion to approve the minutes by Dr. Stanley Johnson, seconded by Dr. Priscilla Manarino-Leggett

V. PROVOST’S REPORT.

A. Dr. Jon Young, the Provost, mentioned that in fall 2009, students were more likely to take classes from faculty than adjuncts, an improvement. Although there were 137 fewer classes offered, the headcount enrollment did not decrease.

B. FSU lost 30 positions from Academic Affairs, resulting in $1.8 million permanently cut from the AA budget (approximately 5%). Dr. Young envisions a potential 10% cut from the budget.

C. Retention rates are based on a cohort model (tracking a group of students from freshman year through their college career). The traditional model may not be sufficient. FSU is developing a non-cohort model to review retention rates.

   i. The non-cohort model views the data from all students, including the number and percentage that graduated, and those that returned for the following fall semester.

   ii. From fall 2007 to fall 2008, the retention rate improved from 67.7% to 70.1%.
iii. The 70.1% retention rate shows that one third of students who could’ve returned in fall 2008 did not. Adding that to the number of students who graduated reveals that attrition can affect enrollment and funding for faculty positions.

D. In 2008, FSU improved in virtually every category regarding retention rates.

E. In response to Dr. Maurice Mongkuo’s question about retention data, Dr. Jon Young stated that data are provided to help departments in their Operational Plans. Each department is responsible for addressing retention issues in the Operational Plan, which will support FSU’s Strategic Plan.

F. Dr. Charles Tryon mentioned the retention rate for military students. Dr. Young shared that military attrition is a factor for retention.

G. Dr. Daniel Autrey asked about data tracking retention from sophomore to junior years, etc. Dr. Young mentioned that the data is available for cohorts, but otherwise information is compiled from year to year. Once students have declared a major, they are statistically more likely to remain enrolled in subsequent years.

H. Dr. Kelly Charles asked if the data included licensure-only students, those seeking certification, etc. Dr. Young responded that the data does include these groups.

I. Dr. Sam Heastie asked if the data suggests why the retention issues are occurring. Dr. Young mentioned that personal, financial, and medical issues are the prevalent reasons given when students are polled. Many students don’t return because of academic reasons, although it is difficult to get hard data on the reasons. Dr. Young stated that research supports the following: improve student services, improve academic support, engaging pedagogies, and good advisement.

J. High school GPA is a more reliable predictor of college performance than the SAT.
K. Dr. Daniel Autrey asked if there was data suggesting that some students were leaving FSU for other institutions. Dr. Young stated that 2 – 4% will transfer to other UNC institutions.

L. Dr. Modibo Kadalie asked about the relative amount of transfer students and their effect on retention rates. Dr. Young responded that students who transfer are predominately freshmen (60%). Low-income students traditionally go to community colleges first. Attracting transfer students is a priority for FSU.

M. Dr. Joseph Johnson questioned what is happening between the percentage of students retained and the percentage of students who graduate? Departmental numbers are based on retention of juniors and seniors who have declared their majors. They’ve already made it through several hurdles and are statistically more likely to graduate.

N. Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem asked about measures to improve retention among males. Dr. Jon Young mentioned a university-wide minority male initiative, involving mentoring freshmen and activities to improve retention. He suggested that departments look at their numbers to identify strategies for retention that address their needs.

O. Dr. Joseph Johnson asked whether all departments expected to identify an action in their Operational Plan to improve retention. Dr. Jon Young answered that at least one of the goals in the OP should address retention efforts.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Report on the Faculty Assembly in Raleigh

   i. Dr. Chet Dilday is a Vice Chair for the Faculty Assembly.
ii. Dr. Gloria Elliott talked about Dr. Erskine Bowles’ address to the Faculty Assembly. He identified five areas for improvement for the UNC system:

1. Improve public K-12 education
2. Improve access to higher education
3. Transform institutions to be more nimble, efficient, and responsive
4. Increase research and become more engaged in economic engagement
5. Enhance global competitiveness

iii. Dr. Gloria Elliott asked Dr. Jon Young about the process from Academic Affairs regarding program approval. Dr. Young stated that no new programs were officially approved at the state level. Intelligence Studies was reviewed, but he has not heard back from the GA. There may be a backlog of program proposals from last year to receive approval this year.

B. Dr. Maurice Mongkuo asked if there were any proposals from last year still sitting on the desk at Academic Affairs. Dr. Young did not believe there were. Dr. Mongkuo asked how long we would likely have to wait for approval from GA. Dr. Young stated that he would check with GA to determine whether the backlog would be cleared. He shared that FSU does not need GA approval for certificate programs.

C. Dr. Jon Young mentioned that Dr. Erskine Bowles made it clear that anytime universities propose a new program, they need to consider what other programs they want to cut. Although this may not be meant literally, the GA is intent on efficient use of resources.

D. Dr. Daniel Autrey asked if we can look into developing virtual reality instruction using I-3D technology. Dr. Young stated that this is a priority, with two virtual reality classrooms using I-3D in development.

E. Dr. Gloria Elliott said that she hoped FSU would not end up on the bottom of the list when GA considers program approval.

F. Dr. Joseph Johnson shared that a recent e-mail gives an adequate update of procedures for program approval.
G. Dr. Michelle Darnell shared that she is available to come to departmental meetings to help faculty understand processes related to program approval.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Newly attending member, Dr. Rammohan Yallapragada, from the School of Business (Accounting), introduced himself to the Senate.

B. Dr. Johnson indicated the need to set a date for the Faculty Senate retreat. He suggested the first part of November on a Wednesday or Friday.

C. Dr. Kadalie moved to hold the retreat on Saturday, Nov. 14. It was seconded by Dr. Yallapragada. The Senate agreed by acclamation to hold the retreat on Saturday, Nov. 14.

D. Dr. Johnson called for the names of elected committee chairs to be shared with him to post on the Senate website.

E. Dr. Johnson asked the Provost for $24,000 for a graduate assistant and a general clerk for the Faculty Senate Office. $10,000 for faculty who were working on the Faculty Handbook. He asked for funding for printing, office needs, and the Faculty Senate retreat. Dr. Jon Young has committed to provide this support.

F. North Carolina will continue to have a state health plan. However, NC legislators have opted out of the Health Information Privacy Act (HIPA). For instance, those who have a Body Mass Index (BMI) that qualifies as obese may be charged more for insurance premiums.

G. Dr. Mongkuo praised the leadership of Dr. Joseph Johnson while acknowledging the faithful service of the previous administration. He suggested that an award should be offered to honor their service. Dr. Johnson stated that it could be addressed at the Senate retreat.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT.

A. Dr. Kelly Charles reported that Student Affairs had an online meeting. They discussed reading initiatives, making sure that student e-mail accounts were active, and using Facebook as a resource.
B. Dr. Michelle Darnell reported that Academic Affairs plans to meet with the new bookstore manager, so they are interested in hearing about issues the faculty would like to address.

C. Dr. Johnson appointed himself as the Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee and called for volunteers to join.

D. Dr. Johnson invited members to join another ad-hoc committee to create a Faculty Senate Newsletter.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Dr. Modibo Kadalie to adjourn.