CALL TO ORDER: President John Slosar called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

CALL OF THE ROLL: President-elect Randy Sprague called the roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the September 19, 2000, meeting were not available.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE BY JOHN SLOSAR:

- Announced that Miriam Joseph’s father had been seriously injured in an accident. The Senate observed a moment of silent prayer in support of his successful recovery.

- Dr. Slosar requested that the President’s Update be delayed to allow the Provost, Sandra Johnson to address the Senate.
  - Provost Johnson discussed the issues facing the University as it moves into the next century. She stressed the need for a new strategic planning initiative. The Provost urged the faculty to become actively involved in the planning process. She requested that all faculty complete the questionnaire that has been available on E-mail regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the University as well as the challenges and opportunities before it. The due date is November 15th.

The planning process will have several stages. The first will be an analysis of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Two committees will participate in this assessment. One will be internal and the other will provide external evaluation. This will be a University-wide endeavor. The internal committee will be composed mostly of faculty. Internal assessment will include such issues as research space and adequacy of residence halls.

The report of these committees will be due by December 30th. A Strategic Planning Steering Committee composed of all Deans and six faculty members (two appointed by the Senate) will then identify critical questions that must be addressed and will present these issues to the entire University community. The results will be presented to the PCC. The planning process is anticipated to be at the individual school level by May, 2001.
• The Faculty Assembly has been rescheduled. It will now be held on Tuesday, November 28 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in the School of Business, Cook Hall.

• The Presidential Scholarly Recognition Reception will be held at 3:30 pm on October 25th in the Simon Recreation Center.

• The Joint Task Force on Evaluation of Chairs and Administration has been put “on hold.”

• There remains confusion regarding the number of semesters that a faculty member must serve before he or she is eligible from sabbatical leave. The issue is under discussion with the Provost.

• Mr. Robert Altholz has agreed to discuss the budget with the Faculty Senate in February, 2001. The University budget for the current year is expected to end with an approximately 4.4 million dollar deficit. The largest contributor to the deficit is the UMG.

• A discussion of the role of the Faculty Senate in the budget process ensued with several points of view expressed. The issue centered on whether it is appropriate for the Senate to make specific budget recommendation or if the Senate should make general recommendations. It was concluded that more thought and discussion is needed. A document the Dr. Breslin wrote to stimulate discussion and submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate was discussed and, with Dr. Breslin’s approval, it was decided to make this document available to the greater faculty.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEDICAL INSURANCE AD HOC COMMITTEE – DR. ROBERT HEANEY (Medicine), Chairperson

Dr. Heaney reported the results of a committee commissioned to investigate options for alterations in the healthy insurance offerings of the University. The committee had comprehensively investigated the options available to try to modify the existing health care plan to accommodate increases in costs. The major cost increase appears to be in the area of prescription drugs. The report of the committee (as well as its composition) can be viewed on the Faculty Senate web site. Comments from faculty are welcome.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Sprague and Daphne Demello