Meeting called to order at 3:15 p.m.

Members Present: Sevki Erdogan, Harald Barkhoff, Michelle Ebersole, Terrence Jalbert, Gail Makuakane-Lundin, Chuck Malenfant, Cam Muir, Yumiko Ohara, Emmeline de Pillis, Ghee Tan, Regina Titunik

Ex-Officio: Phil Castille, Michael Crosby, Debra Fitzsimons, Kenny Simmons

1. Approve Minutes from February 27, 2009

Cam moved to approve the minutes, Gina seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

2. Report from the Chair

Sevki reports that a permanent space and a budget line for the Congress continues to be discussed at the Chancellor’s Executive Committee meetings.

3. Committee Reports:

   a. Admissions Committee

Em reports that discussions at the EMIT Committee center on the University’s goals to grow to 5,000 FTE and to recruit more students from neighbor islands are running up against our student housing shortage.

   b. Budget Committee

Sevki reports that popular support for sustainability is growing on campus.

   c. General Education Committee

Yumiko reports that the G.E. Committee is looking at what Gina and the past committee have done; learning what is going on and how it can be implemented and assessed. They have also met with Phil and Sonia.

   d. Academic Policy Committee

Sevki reports that, per Kenny Simmons, the revised procedures for tenure, promotion, and contract renewal are posted on the web site at http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/uhh/vcaa/documents/ContractRenewalPromotionandTenurererv32409.doc These are the procedures that will be used beginning in August, and include all of the recommendations the Academic Policy Committee had included in the draft, excepting those that affected policy, which will need to approved by the B.O.R.

   e. Assessment Committee

A new program review cycle will begin in the fall.

4. Report from Congress Reps to the:

   a. Student Life Center Committee
Harald reports that the Student Life Center Director has not called a meeting since January.

b. Graduate Committee

Nothing to report.

5. Old Business:

a. Role of Congress and Faculty in the search for a new Chancellor.

Sevki reports that President McClain has agreed to pass on the desired attributes we would like to see in a new chancellor to the advisory committee.

There was discussion as to whether Congress should use Survey Monkey to poll the faculty on what attributes they would like to see. Debra volunteered to pass on the questions used in a previous meeting of the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee as a starting point.

Regarding the search for the new UH System President, Sevki reports that 4 finalists have been selected.

b. Centralized clock system for the campus.

Debra has been looking into this and stated that she will email Sevki an update soon.

c. Should Congress conduct a formal evaluation of the VCAAs

Em reports that she is working on a list of possible questions.

d. The question was raised as to when teaching evaluations from the fall will be distributed.

Phil stated that the delay is due to the unusually high number of demands placed on Brendan’s office because of the budget crises this year. He stated that the data are currently being uploaded.

e. Emergency kits for classrooms

Debra reported that her staff is currently working on an inventory to find out what emergency supplies are already in place on campus, after which she will look into the feasibility of putting emergency kits into classrooms.

Tabled Items:

a. Motion from the April 25th meeting to draft policy for the archiving of paper teaching evaluations for 5 years. (Tabled indefinitely) Brendan Hennessey will attend to discuss this.

b. Large classes (100 or so students) and their impact on education at UHH

Discussion centered on how the only benefit of large classes is lower costs, which come at the expense of pedagogy. There is also concern that we risk our reputation for having small classes. Phil commented that the deans set class size, not he.
c. The Administration and faculty input.
d. Channels of communication between the Faculty and the V.C. for Academic Affairs.
e. 30 percent cap on non-resident student enrolment but not counting graduate students.

6. New Business

a. Should the Congress move to add sustainability to University’s mission statement?
   Discussion was postponed.

b. West Hawaii UHH presence (discussion, suggestions)
   Discussion was postponed.

c. Election process for the new congress membership:
   Barbara Leonard will be replacing Terrence Jalbert.
   Thora Abarca will be replacing Chuck Malenfant.

d. Rewarding teaching with academic rigor/move assessment away from popularity
   Discussion was postponed.

e. Parking
   Discussion was postponed.

f. Special Topics and Experimental Courses
   Discussion was postponed.

g. News from the Administration

   Debra distributed a spreadsheet showing the current state of next year’s budget in the legislature as well as a handout with a list of projects from the Sustainability Committee. She also reported that she thinks Congress may be able to have one of the EKH portable buildings as a permanent space by December, 2010.

   Mike distributed a handout with a conceptual vision for the establishment of a Research and Economic Development Office based on a business model rather than on state appropriations.

   Phil reported on the progress being made in faculty governance issues in preparation for the special WASC visit in October.