Present: Scott D’Urso, Sara Feldner, Susanne Foster (Chair), Michelle Frederick, M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh, Jill Guttormson, Michelle Mynlieff, Stephanie Quade, Michael Slattery, Christopher Smith; Doug Smith, John Su

Reflection/Prayer: Scott D’Urso

Recorder: Behnam Ghasemzadeh

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

1. September 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

2. A new concentration track in finance was introduced and discussed. Kent Belasco presented the new concentration to the committee. This concentration will provide opportunities for students in the banking industry. The program does not require new resources and only two new courses will be offered which will be thought by present faculty members. The program will start recruiting students in January 2017 and plans to recruit 20-25 students by March. The new track will be noted on the transcript but not on the graduation diploma. It was mentioned that since this is a new concentration area within the finance major it does not require senate approval. The new concentration was approved by a unanimous vote.

3. The committee discussed the present University grading system and the options available for changing to a new system (plus and minus). John Su pointed out that MU law school is already using a plus/minus system similar to what seems to be used mostly by other schools. The issue of Quality Point Average (QPA) corresponding to the plus/minus grading was raised. It was mentioned that the QPA used by the law school seems to be appropriate. Another issue discussed was if departments would consider a C minus as a passing grade? Another issue presented was about dealing with transfer students and their grades with the new system? It was suggested that each college should come up with a common grading system that is most suited for their disciplines. John Su will provide a write up of the policy for the committee to review.

4. The committee considered issues regarding concurrent degrees. Should Marquette allow a student to earn two different degrees of the same type concurrently (2 BAs or 2
BSs)? Currently, University allows pursuing a BA and a BS degree concurrently. This topic will be revisited when the written proposal is received in the near future.

5. The committee briefly discussed the issue of student conduct in the classroom with particular emphasis on the use of electronic devices in the class. It was mentioned that use of an electronic device such as a computer due to disabilities/accommodations need to be considered and allowed. It was mentioned that separate policies may be needed for undergraduate and graduate students. There seems to be a need to develop a policy clarifying these issues. In addition, the student classroom conduct needs to be assigned to proper University committee for consideration. The committee will be ask Cheryl Maranto for clarifications.

6. Sarah Feldner provided an update on the Common Core discussions. There were a series of meeting/listening sessions and discussions throughout last academic year and suggestions were elicited from the campus community. Based on these discussions and suggestions, six integrated learning outcomes were formulated and a specific structure or operation framework for the Common Core has been proposed. In addition, a new method of assessment for the effectiveness of the core is being discussed. A tier system for taking the core courses is being discussed in order to provide a better learning experience/outcome for the students. The plan was sent to the University Senate and has been forwarded to the provost for review. One issue that has received particular attention is the diverse culture requirement in the core. It seems that the goals of diverse culture education is not clearly defined and the issue of defining, measuring, and satisfying the diversity education/requirement still needs more discussion. A separate taskforce has been formed to address these issues. All information about the Common Core is available on the University website.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Behnam Ghasemzadeh