I. Call to Order. Invocation by Rev. Mike Class, S.J.
The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm

Members Present: Dr. Marie Hoeger Bement, Dr. Margaret Bloom, Prof. Bruce Boyden, Dr. Margaret Callahan, Dr. Sharon Chubbuck, Fr. Michael Class, Dr. James Courtright, Dr. William Cullinan, Dr. Evelyn Donate-Bartfield, Prof. Edward Fallone, Dr. Marilyn Frenn, Dr. Steven Goldzwig, Dr. Kristin Haglund, Dr. Jadwiga Hjerstedt, Dr. Diane Hoeveler, Mrs. Susan Hopwood, Dr. Jeanne Hossenlopp, Mr. Stephen Hudson-Mairet, Mr. John Jentz, Dr. Sarah Knox, Dr. Christine Krueger, Dr. Cheryl Maranto, Dr. Daniel Meissner, Dr. Anne Pasero, Dr. John Pauly, Mr. Jason Rae, Mr. Raymond Redlingshafer, Dr. Linda Salchenberger, Dr. James South, Dr. Siddhartha Syam, Dr. Steven Taylor, Dr. William Thorn, Dr. G.E. Otto Widero, Dr. William Wiener, and Dr. Wanda Zemler-Cizewski.

Member Excused: Dr. Edward Korabic, Kristen Hickman, and Dr. Kristy Nielson.

Guest Present: Dr. Lawrence Soley, Alex Ng, Mr. Dale Kaser, Dr. Linda Lee, Dr. Gary Levy, Ms. Georgia McRae, Ms. Mary Pat Pfeil, Tribune Reporter

Approval of November 17, 2008 Minutes.
The minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting were moved for approval. The vote was unanimous to adopt the minutes as presented.

II. Chairperson’s Report – Dr. William Thorn
A. NCAA Report will be given in February.
B. Committee on Research Report on State of Interdisciplinary Research. They will report to the group in February.
C. Task Force on Electronic Course Evaluation. Dr. Brush had his first meeting

Dr. Courtright expressed concerns on behalf of Committee on Committee and Elections regarding the database of persons who have expressed a willingness to serve on committees. Dr. Courtright asked that faculty feel free to nominate people as only a few faculty members return the interest form.

Bill Thorn communicated a concern over the confidentiality of assessment data being placed on the website. Dr. Bloom was advised by General Counsel and made the decision to exclude some data on the basis of class size (five students or less). The North Central Guidelines requests this information regarding student learning be made publicly available. The ‘No Child Left Behind’ Act will soon begin looking at whether to require similar data at the collegiate level. State universities already have a template. All the UW schools are currently posted. It is important that Marquette be committed. The Assessment Committee will continue to solicit comments from faculty regarding the type of data that should be posted. Senators may email Dr. Bloom with any questions or concerns.

The Higher Learning Commission will be here March 2 and 3rd. On Monday, March 2nd at 2:45 pm the Senators will meet with the visiting accrediting team. The location will be emailed to UAS members.
III. Provost Report – Dr. John Pauly

A. Economics

- The Greater Milwaukee Catholic Education Consortium announced a $600,000, three-year gift from the Stollenwerk Family Foundation.
- Large gifts received for the College of Engineering. Gifts that are unrestricted will be directed to scholarship and financial aid support. The University endowment is down 25%. Only $5 million of the over $300 million budget is funded by the endowment. The Annual Fund is only down 10%.
- University Admissions reports that applications are up 17%. We have few commitments at this time. No evidence that students were unable to return in spring due to finances.
- Buildings under construction have been financed through the placement of bonds. The University will be cautious about undertaking new construction unless funds are in hand.
- No current plans for either a salary freeze or a hiring freeze. The Administration will continue to monitor the financial situation carefully.
- Contingency plans are being prepared. There will be modest raises based on merit. There should be a 4% pool for staff and a 3% pool for faculty. Those promoted through the tenure process will receive raise.

The budget is for 1850 freshman in fall from the over 17,000 applications received. Currently 50% of the students who apply do not complete the FAFSA. Please encourage students to apply.

B. Classroom scheduling

The pool of available classrooms, including smart classrooms, is limited. Securing the appropriate mix of classroom space continues to be a work in progress. The classroom scheduling policy will adapt to reflect that progress. Some exceptions to the policy have been requested and have been granted.

C. Child Safety Policy (background checks)

Background checks will be required when working with minors on campus, i.e., summer programs. Background check and an online training program will be required for all adults who have contact with minors in these programs. Background checks will have to be updated every four years. These types of checks are common and will be conducted by a contractor. Engineering and Communication faculty and administrators thought these extra steps would be manageable.

D. Update on new building projects

Zilber Building has been bond funded. Eckstein Hall will be completed by Fall 2010. New buildings require 50% cash and 85% pledges for construction to begin.

Milwaukee’s Sick Leave Ordinance will require that employers such as Marquette University must provide nine days of paid sick leave. Reporting of sick days will have to be tracked in greater detail. This is required in order to comply with the ordinance.

Both Dean Searches are progressing nicely. Across the United States, universities are having a challenge in finding Dean candidates for Arts & Sciences colleges.
IV. Report of Boards and Standing Committees
A. University Board of Undergraduate Studies – Dr. Margaret Bloom moved the motion to terminate the major of Broad Field Social Sciences in Psychology. This should be the last major termination related to the elimination of the Arts and Sciences Education degree. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

B. Faculty Council – Prof. Edward Fallone reported for the Faculty Council. He reminded those present that the Faculty Council minutes are available on the Provost’s webpage.
1. Varsity Theater
   This building will be remodeled. Currently it is the largest room on campus available for exams. Rows 1 through 17 will have tablet arms on every other seat for a total of 270 exam suitable seats. The Faculty Council worked with the University Architects and is comfortable with this compromise. New seats can be previewed in Janet Gottfreid’s office.

2. Retirees Medical Insurance
   A subcommittee of the Faculty Council plans to bring forth a report on health insurance benefits for retirees before the end of the semester.

3. Room Scheduling
   The system for scheduling rooms for classes and exams operates through the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the semester and then scheduling is transferred to the AMU. There were some faculty complaints last year concerning double booking of rooms and lost reservations. The Registrar felt that the system would operate better with some time to work out the kinks. The Faculty Council and the Registrar will meet at the end of the semester in order to review the procedure and determine if this year’s experience was better.

4. Faculty Grading Deadline- Regarding the issue of extending the grading period for faculty, at the November UAS meeting it was suggested that Prof. Fallone meet with CAPS. A discussion ensued regarding a means of gaining an extra day of grading time by shortening the appeal process and not handing diplomas out at graduation. Prof. Fallone will work with CAPS to bring a more precise proposal to present to the Academic Senate and the Provost. The proposed change is to have the deadline for grades moved back one day to the Tuesday following the completion of exams.

V. New Business – none

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 pm.