Chairman Robbie Nicholson called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Present: Bell, Evatt, Herrin, Hickman, Nicholson, Robbins

Guest: Budd Bodine, President of the Faculty Senate

The previous minutes were not available at this meeting but will be approved at the next meeting.

Announcements:

Robbie reported that Dr. Curris thanked her for bringing to his attention an oversight regarding there being no staff representation on the search committee for the Vice-President for Public Service and Agriculture. He has subsequently chosen Mr. John Gentry in regulatory services to represent classified staff on this search committee.

Robbie introduced our guest Dr. Budd Bodine, President of the Faculty Senate. He came to talk with us about issues where he thinks faculty and staff may share some concerns. He encouraged any of the Commission members to come to the Faculty Senate meetings at any time. If we have any issues we feel need to be addressed at Faculty Senate, we should contact him so he can be sure to recognize our representative at their meeting. He did inform us that there is some compensation for the Faculty Senate President and suggested that we look into getting some release time (25%) for our President.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Michalann Evatt reported that they met on January 25 to go over the Policy and Procedures manual and sent Steve Robbins their results of their discussions. They also discussed the Commissions backdrop display and found out that if it is rented more than a couple of times it needs Vice-Presidential approval along with other more complicated procedures. If it’s just rented a couple of times, we’ll need to set up an IDO when someone wants to use it. They will check further to find out what others do to protect themselves from loss if there is some damage done to items rented. It was decided to not advertise the backdrop but if someone knows we have it and asks us about using it, we will evaluate the request. If the request is approved, we agreed to take it to their destination and set it up. Michalann will do further checking on how much it costs at a local rental business to rent something like this so we’ll have some idea what to charge. Their next meeting will be March 4 at 10 a.m. The committee will attempt to publish the commission’s
newsletter every two months or on an as needed basis. Conrad S. is also working on the brochure that contains legislative information. Kaye Hickman stated she would like to include this brochure in the notebooks given to the new representatives. Discussion followed on logging communications to their committee.

**Scholarship:** Cathy Bell passed out a copy of the revision of the description of the scholarship committee that was sent to Steve Robbins for consideration for the Policy and Procedures Manual. The scholarship fund solicitation mailing has gone out. If anyone gets any feedback, please send it to us. The tentative date for the golf tournament is April 20 at Boscobel again. The next meeting is set for February 13.

**Budget:** no report

**Membership:** Kaye Hickman brought a list of names to propose as alternate appointments. The following staff members were approved to serve as alternates: Dixie Carroll, Olivia Shanahan, M. Carolyn Scott, and Sherry Pierson. They will be contacted and invited to attend the next Commission meeting. Membership committee members, April Haynes and Alexandra Barnes, requested that they be included in Policy and Welfare's discussions about the Policies and Procedures Manual revisions. Alexandra Barnes will chair the orientation portion of the April 9th meeting. Freddie Harbin will notify and invite newly elected representatives and alternates to the March meeting and April luncheon. She will also notify others and thank them for participating.

**Policy & Welfare:** Steve Robbins reported his disappointment in attendance at his committee meetings. Discussion followed where others expressed the same concern. Robbie agreed to say something at the next Commission meeting to encourage representatives and their alternates to be involved in their committee work. There was concern expressed about the apathy that seems to exist among staff members. The committee will meet the afternoon of February 13 to continue discussion on the Policies and Procedures Manual changes.

**Unfinished Business**

Cathy Bell asked what the status was regarding a previous discussion about sending cards of sympathy, cheer etc. Robbie stated that we needed to follow-up on this by presenting a motion at a regular Commission meeting.

**New Business:** none

**Adjournment -** at 4:30 p.m.

submitted by Cathy Bell for Lynn Belding