I. The meeting was called to order by President Delinda Royse

II. Members Present: Jenny Anderson, Linda Black, Tom Brock, Larry Callis, Gabrielle Dodosh, Sally Fiscus, Phil Ladwig, Linda Matson, Mark McCain, Cheryl Miller, Billie Norden, Delinda Royse, Kimberly Sandlin, Michael Turner, Marilyn Yourdon

III. Delinda welcomed two new members, Larry Callis and Gabrielle Dodosh

IV. Agenda was distributed, and copies of the UP Standing Committees. Delinda asked anyone else interested in serving on a committee to please let her know

V. Reviewed and approved the August 15, 2007 minutes as amended, changing two dates

New Business

VI. Delinda reported being contacted by a cell phone company who would like to make a group presentation. It is her feeling that this would only open the field to all vendors who wished to do a presentation if one was accepted. It was the consensus that this would not be a good policy. It was stated that the state web site has many vendors listed who give discounts to state employees and it would be helpful to put this information on the Unclassified Professional web page. Larry Callis will provide the web link for Delinda.

VII. Dr. Beggs was invited to speak. The following is a summary of his remarks:

A. Dr. Beggs thanked all the staff who helped with the Higher Learning Commission Report. Even though the final report has not been received, everything looks well for WSU.

B. Dr. Beggs thanked all who helped with Banner implementation and stated that there are now tools in place in Banner that will be used in many new ways in the future.

C. He stated that the university will be taking over the Engineering Research Building by December. The importance of this date is the university will then be eligible for the State of Kansas to pay the interest payments of $833,000 per year for 5 years. WSU will be responsible for $175,000 of principle for those 5 years which will be paid by fund raising or research overhead. After the 5 years the principle and interest will be the responsibility of WSU. The 3 bays in the new building will be used by manufacturing projects or grants which will generate cash to help pay off the overhead. The aviation industry will be able to use these bays on projects for which they are now going out of state.

D. Dr. Beggs stated that the perimeter road master plan begun in 1979 has yet to be completed, with the last phase to move the road that runs under the walkway between McKnight and Ulrich Museum to between McKnight and Wilner and connect with the road that runs north to Koch arena. The plans are to start this project next spring.

E. Regarding deferred maintenance, WSU received less funding than they had requested, but received 1.5 million. At this point the university is not sure how much funding will be received from tax credits, but hoping for around 5 million by the end of the year. The foundation will have to report the dollars received on tax credit. Five hundred Tax Credits may be purchased by companies or individuals. Ted Ayres is working with the Department of Revenue on tax credits. The state will be monitoring the spending for deferred maintenance quarterly. The university will also be allowed to draw interest off tuition monthly which must also be used for deferred maintenance. WSU doesn’t have surge space to move people while renovating, therefore building maintenance must be done in stages. When the state pays off the 15 million dollars of bonded indebtedness from Crumbling Classrooms, then more dollars will be freed up for deferred maintenance.

F. Dr. Beggs stated that there have been several personnel changes that will impact the university.

1. The first being that the Board of Regents has 5 new members with the chairman and chairman elect WSU graduates. The emphasis for the new board seems to be accountability for dollars spent by the universities.

2. Roger Lowe announced his phased retirement in January and Mary Herrin will be promoted to the position beginning January 27, 2008. Mary’s position as Budget
Director will be filled by a wide search. The title for the VPAF unit will be changed as well as the Vice President’s title. The changes in the VPAF office will include moving the responsibility of the Rhatigan Student Center to CLUR. Ron Kopita is putting together the search committee to replace Bill Smith, who is also retiring in February 2008. The Auditors will be moving to Ted Ayres office, and Hazardous Waste to Research Administration. The funding for Hazardous Waste will be from research which will also fund a new position from Research overhead.

G. The “We Are Wichita State” campaign has been successful. Fourteen funded positions have been added and $600,000 received from the State of Kansas.

H. A big issue with the state is the reclassification of all classified employees in the State of Kansas. The Hay Group Study is by an outside consultant group. The reclassification is not limited to Higher Education and not everyone will be happy with the decision of a 3rd party.

I. Another issue for the state is a new funding model for all post secondary education. Dr. Beggs stated that he thought most likely the funding will stay as is. The emphasis will be on credit hour production and credit hours from out of state. He is not expecting growth in enrollment due to trend of numbers of students in high schools today. Students are paying 39% of total dollars for tuition compared to state funds. Nationwide tuition dollars are getting higher. WSU had one million more in grants this year due to the “We are WSU” campaign. Dr. Beggs stated that WSU had 41% of graduating seniors who did not have any student loans. The 59% of those who have loans had an average of $21,000 in loans.

J. Crisis management is another important issue. Many meetings have been held since the crisis at Virginia Tech. Gary Miller’s brother works at Virginia Tech which opened up discussion and it was learned that WSU had the same set of protocol as Virginia Tech. Ron Kopita was at Cal State during an earthquake and has also given input in that emergency situation. WSU is working on new protocol utilizing as a resource materials from other institutions. WSU will be using a campus blast with the WSU webpage and also with the new text messaging for cell phones. This is available for students and staff to sign up for on a voluntary basis. There will also be digital communication signs in each building in case of an emergency. These signs are coming from a company in Derby, KS. Discussions have been held with the legal community and the courts on legal issues and also with the health community in case of an epidemic. The biggest concern is training and communication.

VIII. Michelle Harris has contacted Delinda regarding the meetings being held on Wednesday and her unavailability due to her class schedule. Delinda asked the wishes of the senate as to Michelle’s position. It was moved, seconded, and carried that she be asked to step down, and the next person on the election list will be asked to be a member. Delinda will consult Chris Cavanaugh regarding the vote and check with the by-laws regarding senate membership. Delinda will also try again to contact Chris Lamb.

IX. A fall meeting was discussed and Dr. Beggs and Dr. King were presented as possible speakers. Delinda will contact them to see their availability before a date is set for the general meeting.

X. Kim Sandlin handed out flyers regarding the Distinguished Scholarship Invitational on November 10, 2007 and asked everyone to check with their departments for anyone interested in being a volunteer.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Billie Norden