FA Vice President Grabowska called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. Information Items—
   a. Reorder/Additions—FA Vice President Grabowska requested that an item on the electronic distribution of information be added to the agenda.
   b. FA President’s Report—FA Vice President Grabowska: We extend our best wishes to President Davenport for a speedy recovery from his recent knee surgery. Also our thoughts and prayers are with his Administrative Assistant, Ginny Fitzloff, whose husband recently went through a double organ replacement. The local FA ballots have gone out to faculty with a return date of April 7th. Rod Henry, a faculty member at Bemidji State University and the only announced candidate for Statewide IFO President, will be on campus on Monday, 24 March, for meetings with faculty. The IFO election will be held on April 8th. The IFO Delegate Assembly will be held next Friday, March 28th, to which a number of our faculty will attend. FA President Don Larsson couldn’t be here today because he is involved in the executive planning session for the delegate assembly. Locally the faculty will have the opportunity to evaluate the Vice Presidents and Assistant Vice Presidents. The FA continues to have an interest in reviewing all current administrative positions. Concerning the contract, the Agreement has been approved by the Board of Trustees and the legislators in the House of Representatives. The bill will be taken up in the Senate next week, after the legislators return from Easter break, and then sent to the Governor for his signature. Once it is approved, there will be a considerable amount of work to do implementing various requirements of the Agreement. We wanted to mention a number of concerns we have with Article 22 of the Agreement and that we will be discussing various aspects of Article 22 during the next year. Our concerns with the budget continue. In early March, Representative Bob Eastlund proposed a bill mandating a common course numbering system within MnSCU. The common course numbering bill continues to limp along despite considerable opposition from many system faculty. According to IFO President Nancy Black, Representative Kathy Brynaert told the Higher Education committee that she heard from half the faculty at Mankato so she removed her name from the bill. At the moment, it appears the bill is bottled up - but we can’t be sure until the Higher Education bills are out of committee.
Remember the FA picnic on Friday, May 2nd. In closing I will ask FA President Larsson’s question: Where does this discussion on alcohol go now?

c. **MSU President’s Report**—Provost Olson: You will recall that hundreds of ideas were generated at the summit. There are numerous groups in the community meeting on the topic. We will have a campus group that will work at putting this various ideas into clusters for reporting back to the campus and to the community. President Davenport expected to be here today but he had to go back yesterday for further work. At the Chairs’ Breakfast we had a good discussion on the transition to 120 credits for the baccalaureate degree. We started with a broader approach and will need to drill down eventually. Some programs that see an easy fix have gone forward. It has been a great past two weeks for Intercollegiate Athletics. We have some outstanding young people competing for our University. Today thanks in large part to our faculty, we received a $250,000 check from Minnesota Corn Growers for work with alternative fuels. As for the Common Course Number topic, I belief this came from a two-year student body president in the system.

d. **Human Resources Topics**—Human Resources Director Lamb: Consistent with our electronic distribution approach, the unclassified and classified position summaries have been distributed electronically. You should have received a quick survey from the Great Place to Work Task Force. We hope to establish a base line with this survey. It should take no more than five minutes to complete. We have received some questions concerning a tax regulation change that requires us to gather a pay option preference (i.e., 9-month or 12-month) from all faculty. An individual is required to turn in the preference only once. There will be an annual opportunity to make a change.

e. **Campus Master Plan Open Forum**—Vice President Straka: We’re trying to publicize the Campus Master Plan Open Forum. It will be held Monday, 3/31/08, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and Wednesday, 4/02/08, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the lower level of the Centennial Student Union. All are welcome. Comments on our master plan received from the Office of the Chancellor primarily focused on our procedures. There is concern with the Traffic and Parking aspect. FA: Is it possible to give a presentation to FA Executive Committee? Vice President Straka: Yes.

2. **Action Items**—

a. **Policy Update:** Academic Affairs Policy Coordinator O’Sullivan distributed a one-page Status of Policy Drafts. There are some policies that will be forthcoming in the next week under the University’s “expedited review” process. FA: In light of the new draft of the Make-up Work and Missed Classes policy, is it possible to extend the deadline line? For example could we move the date back one month? Coordinator O’Sullivan: You bet - we will wait until all comments have been received.

b. **Article 20, Section I:** Directors and Other Coordinating Assignments Agreement Language

c. **2008-09 Personnel Calendars:**

d. **Student Teacher Supervision (Article 20, Section B., Subd. 2)**—FA Vice President Grabowska: We have heard no objections on these three Agreement issues. Let me state for the record that the Faculty Association is informed on these three matters. We note on the matter of Student Teacher Supervision that the College of Education is considering a change in the current procedures. This will be considered in the future when it becomes more fully developed.
3. Discussion Items—

a. MnSCU/Legislative Relations—Vice President Straka: The MnSCU Board of Trustees took no action on tuition and fees at their March meeting. In light of continuing discussions with the Governor, they are awaiting more information before they decide. Concerning possible ways to meet the Governor’s reduction target, the initial attempt likely would be to make cuts at System Office level, followed by campus budget reductions and finally, as a last resort, an increase in tuition. On bonding, it appears that Trafton will be funded and that HEAPR will be funded at the $50 to $60 million level. Another local project being considered is the city of Mankato’s plan to expand the Civic Center. They are asking for a relatively small amount of planning money ($1,000,000) which is likely to increase chances of receiving funding.

b. Budget—Vice President Straka: We are in our 7th or 8th phase of wait’n’see. There is not much of an appetite for increasing tuition. We anticipate being about $1,000,000 out of balance. President Davenport has asked each division for a plan that would reduce budgets by 1-1/2%. We have set aside some dollars to handle growth. At 6.3% our reserve is in good shape. Our reserves are the highest in the information reported to The MnSCU Board of Trustees. Long-term, three-five years, we will not see increases in state support for higher education. FA: How will this 1-1/2% reduction shake out? Will there be an effect on programs? Vice President Straka: The Cabinet understands these challenges and hopes to avoid reductions that will adversely affect our programs. Provost Olson: We have a large budget, with a lot of options. FA Vice President Grabowska: This amount plus the earlier 2% reduction in Academic Affairs creates a deeper and deeper hole. Provost Olson: We have some time. FA What about the Metro site? Vice President Straka: Extended Learning will be responsible for their bottom line. We will provide some seed money to get things started but after that it will become an entrepreneurial budget where they will pay as they go. We will operate it like the way two-year colleges handle customized training. Provost Olson: Projections show the Metro site in the red for the first two years. The preferred site now is at 7700 France, relatively close to Normandale CC. This will make us highly accessible with plenty of parking, as well as security, and custodial assistance. This site is more expensive and we have a challenge with signage. This site also is on a bus route which will increase accessibility. We are proposing to lease this space or some comparable space for 3-5 years. We are still planning to begin holding classes in the fall of 2008. We are doing this to maintain our current residential quality.

c. Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)—FA Vice President Grabowska: The FA has endorsed the VSA concept. Administration now should take proposals to specific sub-meets.

d. Extended Learning Metro Site—(included in b. above)

e. Summer Chairperson Workload—FA Unit Representatives: We conducted a survey of chairs to discuss the teaching expectations of chairs during the summer. FA Vice President Grabowska: The Agreement (in Article 20, Section C., Subd.1) does state that the twenty eight (28) additional duty days shall be mutually agreed upon by the chair, the Association, and the President/designee. FA Unit Representatives: It is the nearly unanimous belief that teaching is a required part, even if not required per se. Appreciation was expressed.
for Deans making resources available from summer surplus. The major concern is that teaching
during the summer in addition to other chair duties can be overwhelming. Additional comments
were made by various unit reps. Associate Vice President Winkworth A written report from the
FA on this issue would be helpful. FA Vice President Grabowska: The FA Executive
Committee needs to talk more about this matter. Provost Olson: We are interested in working
with you on this issue. FA Vice President Grabowska: This was just to open the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

**Spring Semester Meet and Confer Schedule:**
Thursday, April 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m., CSU 204 (AD Chair/FA Agenda)
Thursday, May 1, 3:00-5:00 p.m., CSU 204 (FA Chair/AD Agenda)

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John M. Winkworth    Paul J. Hustoles
Reviewer for Management    Reviewer for Faculty