FA President Bohnenblust called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

1. Information Items—
   a. Reorder/Additions: FA President Bohnenblust requested that the discussion of the International Inventory (item 4c.) become the final agenda item.
   b. FA President’s Report: FA President Bohnenblust: We continue to be concerned about various budget proposals at the State Capitol. While we are all concerned about the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, we need to be concerned about over-reacting. In the eight years since Columbine, we have had our share of tragedies on our own campus. We must not forget the good things that have happened.
   c. MSU President’s Report: President Davenport: I want to underscore everything you said about the Virginia Tech tragedy. Our students have responded by starting a face book. The article in The Reporter on the significance of Virginia Tech was the best thing I have seen them do. Various incidents have occurred including a report from Central Lakes College about a gunman on campus. (N.B. This report later was found in error as noted in the following message on the Central Lakes College website:

   The Brainerd campus of Central Lakes College campus was set into a brief panic Wednesday after a training message stating there was a gunman at the school was inadvertently sent out to students and faculty. The message, indicating there was a gunman on the campus and that the school was locked down, was sent at about 4 p.m. to everyone in CLC’s phone and e-mail directory. Kari Christiansen, vice president for administrative services, said information technology staffers at the school were testing recently installed security software when the message went out. Within minutes of realizing the error, a second message was sent out by phone, e-mail and over the school’s public address system indicating the first message was sent in error. “We’re very sorry about the error,” Christiansen said).

Our budget allocation promises to be the best in a long time although at present everything is up in the air. In the area of technology, there is a possibility we might get $25-30 million from the Legislature to help us with technology. We also are concerned about some of the initiatives under consideration including one that would require the
MnSCU Board to establish a 120-credit hour limit on baccalaureate degrees. We are working with the Faculty Association to defeat this initiative. I have gone on record to urge the defeat of this initiative. The Chancellor’s office would consider as a compromise an exceptional rule for programs to exceed the 120-credit limit. If the initiative cannot be killed, I propose we try to implement a year to study the proposal. FA?: How can all the presidents in the system be opposed to this initiative and yet the Chancellor supports it? President Davenport: I believe the Chancellor doesn’t want to do anything to jeopardize the budget. I did send a letter on the recreation referendum to The Free Press but it has yet to be printed. We will try again next year to gain student support for this important health and fitness initiative.

d. Provost’s Report: Provost Olson: We are studying the implications of the new approach to promotions as described in the Letter of Understanding (Procedure to review salaries of promoted faculty as part of SRC annual reviews for faculty who are promoted effective July 1, 2008—http://ifo.org/ifonegotiationsactionhome.htm). The Office of the Chancellor has informed us that this LOU takes effect with the promotion process of 2007-08. We continue to study the implications of this approach. Apropos campus notification in times of emergency, Vice President Schneider continues to work on the implementation of telephones that possess a paging protocol. They have a speaker capability that makes them useful in times of emergencies when we need to get out a message to the campus community. At the end of this summer these kinds of phones will be installed in all our classrooms on campus.

e. Human Resources Topics: Personnel Searches: Lists of classified openings as well as the regular administrative openings were distributed. FA?: Will you use a search firm for the Dean’s search that failed? Provost Olson: We had a very good candidate in the search for the Dean of Science, Engineering & Technology. Unfortunately for us, she took a position elsewhere. We had an excellent search committee headed up by Dean Kaye Herth and we plan to start up this search again early in the fall.

2. Action Items--
   a. Article 20, Section I: Directors and Other Coordinating Assignments:
      Article 20, Section I: Directors and Other Coordinating Assignments
   b. Personnel Calendars: (Article 22, Section D., Subd. 2.
   c. Student Teacher Supervision: (Article 10, Section B., Subd. 3.

Copies of these items were distributed at the March meeting. FA President Bohnenblust: We will have comments at the May 10 Meet and Confer. FA?: Do the common semester start dates for the system have any effect on our calendar? Associate Vice President Winkworth: There are no apparent adverse effects to our calendars.

3. Policies--
   a. Updates: University Policy Convener Malcolm O’Sullivan joined the policy discussion to provide information on the process and progress to date.
      1.) Undergraduate Admissions: Director of Admissions Walt Wolff will meet with Vice President Swatfager-Haney to clarify a couple of issues. When the
issues have been resolved, Vice President Swatfager-Haney will make a final 
recommendation to the President.

2.) Repeating of Undergraduate Courses: This policy requires final 
editing by Assistant Vice President Johnson. Once completed Assistant Vice President 
Johnson will make a recommendation to Provost Olson. Provost Olson will make a final 
recommendation to the President.

3.) Rollerblades/Skateboards/Bicycles/Personal Assistive Mobility Devices: 
Vice President Straka will be meeting with Rob McGinn on a safety concern raised by 
members of a campus bargaining unit. When this issue is resolved, Vice President Straka 
will make a final policy recommendation to the President.

b. Formal Review:

1.) Administrative Drop Policy: FA President Bohnenblust: With increasing 
numbers of students expected in the fall, this becomes an increasingly important issue. 
Professor Rolfes, involved in the development of this policy, is concerned with security. 
I see this as a reverse blue-card policy where we check the drop box instead of the add 
box. In talking with a faculty colleague from Winona State, I was told that all their 
classes are this way and it is up to departments to enforce the policy. Provost Olson: 
There hasn’t been any real push back from students. FA President Bohnenblust: The 
Registrar suggested a committee be formed to study the issue to which I said “No.” This 
is a simple, straightforward issue. Vice President Swatfager-Haney: I appreciate the 
feedback and will be following up with the Registrar. Vice President Straka: If the 
administrative drop takes a student out of the tuition band, there could be some financial 
difficulties. Director O’Sullivan: There is no cap on the number of courses in the current 
version of the policy. The intent of the policy is to make those seats available. FA 
President Bohnenblust: At Winona State, the Registrar doesn’t have to do anything; it is 
a departmental issue. If we require notification to students, it will require some 
additional administrative work. The proposed policy remains optional. The message 
seems to be: “Show up for the first class, you might be dropped.” We will continue this 
discussion at the May 10 Meet and Confer.

2.) Access for Students with Disabilities: No comments were made concerning 
this policy.

4. Discussion Items--

a. MnSCU/Legislative Relations: This topic was covered earlier in President 
Davenport’s report.

b. Budget: Vice President Straka: This year there are a variety of positives not 
the least of which is we are on track to have a balanced budget. For next year we 
currently assume a 4% tuition increase. While there is a slight change in the MnSCU 
model, hitting our 13,375 student target should mean we will have a balanced budget next 
year. By May 31, our data is due at the Office of the Chancellor. On June 6 we will 
make our budget presentation. The Board will make their budget decisions at their June 
meeting. FA?: Is there a fourth tier being considered for doctoral programs? Provost 
Olson: I have not heard of any discussion about this but I will check. Vice President 
Straka: Because the model is a year in arrears as it is, any such change would not go into 
effect until 2009 at the earliest.
c. **International Inventory:** Caryn Lindsay, Director of the International Program Office, described what they have been doing in the area of International programs. To assist she distributed two handouts that described different aspects of the programs and approaches. She highlighted a few findings from surveys of faculty and staff, and students. Director Lindsay: We were pleased with the responses to both surveys. The major obstacles appear to be perceptual. A recent study from the University of Minnesota found that the graduation rates for students participating in International programs were higher. In terms of our funding, we need to establish some parameters to know where money should go. As a university we need to be more proactive in developing international partnerships. In addition we need to work hard at developing International relations at home. For example, each semester we could focus on one country with plays and movies and various campus events focusing on that country. We need solid buy in from the FA to be successful. I hope we can avoid single-person programs. FA President Bohnenblust: Thank you for this information. We will put the topic on our next Executive Committee agenda.

d. **Diversity Events and Food Issues Update:** Vice President Swatfager-Haney: A couple of issues have come up concerning diversity events and food issues. We have looked at the concerns brought to us by two faculty members and I think we are on track to reach a solution. We are convinced that we need more student participation.

e. **Student-Athlete Drug and Alcohol Education and Testing Program:** FA President Bohnenblust: There is a policy being proposed by Athletics concerning drug and alcohol education and testing. Should this issue remain in Athletics, or is this a larger issue that should be considered by the entire University? Director O’Sullivan: Our policy group has looked at this. On the one hand it could be considered an educational program and remain in Athletics. If it were presented as a policy it does need to look like a policy and be considered in our process. President Davenport: I will direct Athletics to bring this forward as a policy for consideration. Currently we do not have a policy in place and we need one. Let’s take it through the policy process. FA President Bohnenblust: It is agreed that Athletic Director Buisman and Director O’Sullivan will work on developing this as a policy.

f. **Diverse Cultures Graduation Requirements Draft Policy:** Kellian Clink, co-chair of the work group, shared information about a proposal to create a Diverse Cultures Graduation Requirement. She presented the process and the product, and gave the history of the issue. The study group came up with goals and outcomes related to two kinds of courses: content courses and experiential and reflective courses. There would be purple courses (content) and gold courses (experiential and reflective). This proposal has been shared with a variety of campus groups who have provided reactions and suggestions. FA? What is your timeline? Professor Clink: In the fall we will sponsor two to three open meetings. We hope to have joint sponsorship with the Diversity Commission and Academic Affairs. We have made a required structural change in the FA constitution making the General Education Committee the General Education and Diversity Committee. If things go fast we hope to begin this requirement in the fall of 2008. Vice President Swatfager-Haney: Student Affairs wants to be part of this approach as well.
g. Brainstorming Strategies for Supporting Scholarly Activities Follow-Up:

Provost Olson: I was hoping that Dean Blackhurst and David Haglin could join us but, in their absence, I will attempt to recall some of the ideas we discussed earlier. With CETL in the fall there will be the recognition of senior scholars. David Haglin is working at getting to know faculty and to find out about their scholarly interests. For example, I know he is looking for cross-discipline groups interested in working on a common topic, like the medieval period. We talked earlier about a writing center but have different ideas whether it should be directed toward the faculty or graduate students or both. Dean Blackhurst is working on developing this idea. It would seem that support for graduate student writing is easier and more homogeneous. FA? What about the writing of undergraduates? Students need writing help. College of Education faculty member Scott Page described his college’s efforts with ETS Criterion, a web-based application that evaluates a student's writing skills. FA Vice President Sevems: We need to do a better job of letting the campus know what we currently have; ETS Criterion, SAS, etc. Provost Olson: Dean Blackhurst is working on an internal research publication that will contain information about current campus research activities. I believe she is hoping to get an issue out this spring.

FA President Bohnenblust: In closing let me remind you of the 3rd Annual FA-Sponsored picnic, on Tuesday May 8.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Final Spring Semester Meet and Confer:
Thursday, May 10, 2007 – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. – CSU 202 or Heritage Room

John M. Winkworth  
Reviewer for Management

Paul J. Hustoles  
Reviewer for Faculty