I. Daren Snider, president of the Faculty Senate, opened nominations for committee chair for the 2008-2009 school year. Theresa Wadkins nominated Gary Schaaf and Julie Agard seconded the motion. Gary was unanimously elected. Gary Schaaf nominated Julie Agard for recording secretary and Suzanne Hayes seconded the motion. Julie was elected unanimously. Gary Schaaf introduced Bev Frickel as the Faculty Senate Representative to the committee for this semester. She is replacing Will Aviles who is currently on a leave-of-absence. It was noted that Julie Agard and Suzanne Hayes were re-elected to the committee by their respective colleges for terms ending in 2010.

II. Daren Snider read Article VII.E. of the Faculty Senate Constitution to the committee members. The charge of the Artists and Lecturers Committee is to “Develop and supervise a program of events in support of the academic and cultural objectives of the University.”

III. Daren Snider than shared copies of a new policy for the Artists and Lecturers Committee that was approved on October 2, 2008 to become effective on the same date. It began with a statement of intent: Artist and Lecturer funds are intended to be used throughout the academic year to fund events which are decided upon at the beginning of both semesters. Events for fall semester should be decided on and funded in that semester. Events for spring semester should be decided on and funded in that semester. There should be two deadlines for faculty to apply for funds—one at the beginning of fall semester, and one at the beginning of spring semester. Dr. Snider complimented the work of the committee and departed from the meeting.

Discussion followed this surprise announcement. The committee accepted the spirit of the policy in trying to ensure support for events in both semesters, but expressed a number of concerns with the directive to have two allocation sessions during a school year. It was pointed out that we are already at the halfway mark of fall semester and the committee has been moving as quickly as possible to act in time to fund fall requests. The committee met immediately after the budget was given to us in September. The general announcement went out to faculty on September 17 with a deadline of Oct. 9. Committee members have been reading the proposals and planned to act on
them today. Should we start over with the new guidelines that were decided for us after the call for proposals went out? Five of the eighteen proposals are for fall semester events and that includes one that is already over. A similar timeline in the spring would put a second allocation meeting in late February at the earliest. Committee members expressed concerns that many of the thirteen events being proposed for spring semester would be in jeopardy without confirmation of funding from the Artists and Lecturers Committee. The consensus was that this new policy would thwart the long-range planning process that is necessary to book popular and prominent guests for events on our campus. We are in the second year of the biennium for budgeting which means that we cannot carry over any unused funds for another year. It was agreed that we needed to proceed as advertised for this school year since the process was in place before the new policy was established. Starting over would create unnecessary hardships, particularly for the fall semester. Bev Frickel will carry our concerns to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate.

IV. Our budget for 2008-09 has been set for $18,412.00. The total requested for the eighteen proposals that were submitted by the deadline exceeded our budget by more than $10,000.

a. Members of the committee discussed each proposal and determined the amount of financial support that could be allocated to each one. All eighteen proposals received either the full request for funding or partial funding.

b. The committee’s entire budget was encumbered through this process.

c. The Chair will send letters to the applicants for fall semester and defer the spring semester letters pending further discussion with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

V. A motion to adjourn was offered by Bev Frickel at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Agard, Secretary