In Attendance: Ash, Baeslack, Beal, Beall, Bilimoria, Borchert, Edwards, Han, Johnson, Kirsch, Madigan, Manas-Zloczower, Mucic, Nadeau, Okoye, Rozek, Sideras, Singer, Swaidani, Weitzen
Absent: Caplan, Coticchia, Gilmore, Helper, Kalafatis, Mahoney, Nelson, Palczewski, Salata, Scharf, and Sheridan.

Welcome / Approval of 8/24/08 Meeting Notes
Provost Baeslack welcomed everyone. The September 24, 2008 meeting notes were approved as written.

Conflict of Interest Policy
Mike Edwards and Ray Mucic reported on latest version of the Conflict of Interest policy. The latest policy was deemed satisfactory by the Faculty Senate Committee on Research. Council members present were asked for comments on the policy. One comment questioned disclosures from adult children of faculty. Another concern was that any grant that faculty was hired to worked on could potentially be a conflict of interest; that the wording “conflict of interest” is psychologically bad. There were minor issues with some of the sentences, but overall the latest version was much easier to understand.

Dr. Baeslack requested that any additional questions or comments about conflict of interest be sent to Mike Edwards.

Overview of Faculty Senate Committee on Research
Ray Mucic gave an overview of function of the Faculty Senate Committee on Research. The primary products of the Research Committee are reports. The Research Committee was asked for their recommendation on a new software system for grants management. They will provide feedback after some additional information is received.

PhD Program, Systems Biology
Charles Rozek reported that Systems Biology is an interdisciplinary program. A curriculum has been developed, and it needs a little more work. There had been some disagreement between two Schools. One major issue to be approved by the faculty senate is the fiscal responsibility. Where would the money come from, currently we do not have any money earmarked for this program.

Lynn Singer informed the Council that we would need $500k, and there are some administrative costs as well. Christine Ash, vice president of planning and budget, had drafted a budget. The money for an interdisciplinary program would be used mainly for the support of student stipends.

Joe Nadeau reported that School of Medicine wanted more detail. One problem was that it conflicts with what the School of Engineering wanted. There is no vehicle to reconcile it. To get from here to there, we would need more details. The specifics in Medicine conflicted with those in the College of Arts and Sciences and Engineering.

Lynn Singer worked on all barriers regarding tuitions. The original plan included The Cleveland Foundation, and without $500k some schools would not endorse the
interdisciplinary program without funding in place. If funded, three deans would be equally funded.

**University Strategic Plan/Research**

Provost Baeslack summarized the implementation of the plan, and he provided handouts to the Council of his summary. *(Attachment #1 Strategic Plan) (Attachment #2 Annual Steady State Cycle)*

The university strategic plan would be revised every 5 years. The implementation is moving forward. It is an excellent plan that is detailed, and faculty driven. There is a 5-year window, and the goal is to implement what exists over the next five years. It is a large amount of effort and will be implemented in two phases.

The School’s feed into the plan then the University, this should stimulate collaboration. The Alliance area is a high priority. In the Alliance areas, we will have one representative. We asked the Deans for names and identify leadership. There will be some cost sharing or leveraging to support school initiatives. Funds could be used to support hiring faculty in key areas.

We will continually evaluate metrics which will help show what is failing. We will track and if an area does not perform, then money will be taken from that area. Christine Ash indicated that a template will be used.

The Research Council members could help determine investment funding into the alliance areas. This group could evaluate proposals; perhaps form a subgroup of this committee.

**Phase I 2009 - Goal 1: Strategic Alliances in Research & Discovery:**

**Priority Academic Program Initiatives.** Various ad hoc committees will be used. We will move forward with alliance areas, identify leadership, and work with deans and others across campus. Seed grant funding to start moving. One of the first steps is to appoint a leader e.g., a Vice President for International Organization. Additionally, student advising will be enhanced. Student advising is an area of significant need.

**Administrative Initiatives.** We will appoint a Vice President for Inclusion. Assess and develop faculty/staff salaries and faculty recognition programs. Review doctoral education programs and review the resource documentation process.

**Action Agendas**

Annual “Action Agendas” will be developed at the “Portfolio level” (school, colleges, IT, provost office, undergraduate and graduate education). The School’s faculty senate will represent the Portfolio. Administrative entities should, and will have their own strategic plans – a five year type of plan. These will need to occur with integrated fashion.

Each fiscal year plans will begin, for example, July 1, 2009 (FY2010) an action agenda will be developed. We will assess performance metrics as they exist. The portfolios will work their plans for the Aug/Sep time frame; they will refine their plan then develop a project plan for the following July 1.

**Wrap-up**
Provost Baeslack wrapped up the meeting. Our goal is to invest in the best. To accomplish that task takes investment. We have to decide what our highest priorities are, and most involve research related activities.

cc: President Barbara Snyder
    Dean Pamela Davis
    Dean Grover Gilmore
    Dean Jerold Goldberg
    Dean Mohan Reddy
    Interim Dean Robert Rawson
    Dean Cyrus Taylor
    Dean Norman Tien
    Dean May Wykle