Faculty Senate Agenda – October 2012

- Call Meeting to Order
- Approval of September 11, 2012 Minutes
- Presentation by Chancellor Dan Jones
- Presentation by Norm Easterbrook, Director of the Ford Center for the Performing Arts

Senate Committee Reports
  - Executive Committee
  - Academic Affairs
    - Update on elective “W” Grades
      - Should the University limit the number of “W” grades allowed per student? What policies are currently in place? What are the potential ramifications of limiting the number possible?
    - Update on Grade Appeal Process
      - Consider the ramifications of creating a new Standing Committee (similar to the Academic Discipline Committee) to create continuity in the Grade Appeal Process
    - Repeating Course Policy
      - Explore the impact of updating this policy to make it more consistent and potentially more lenient.
    - Forgiveness Policy
      - The current policy is quite strict compared to similar universities and has a negative impact upon retention. Explore updating this policy to be more in keeping with similar universities.
  - Academic Support
  - Finance
  - University Services
  - Governance
    - Update on Ombudsman (See Attached)
    - Update on Notification of Members of Major Search Committees
      - Agreement between Senate and Administration that searches at Dean’s level or above will result in faculty-wide announcement of
a search committee and said committee’s members should be added to official University Policy (See Attached)

- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
  - Proposed New Faculty Title
    - A proposal has been sent to the Provost’s office to add the faculty title, Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Practice, as a non-tenure track faculty title similar to Instructional and Clinical Professors. The argument is that in some disciplines, the descriptors Instructional and Clinical are not as appropriate as is “of Practice.” (See Attached)
  - Information Technology Enforcement of Academic Discipline Policy
    - The policy states that a student cannot drop a course after an academic discipline charge has been made. Right now, we have cases where the student drops a course (if before the drop deadline) and if we find out that this has happened, we re-enroll them. But there may be many cases where this is not caught.
  - Penn State Faculty Senate Chairs Report
    - The Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) has received a copy of a statement from 27 past and present senate chairs at Pennsylvania State University regarding the recent NCAA sanctions that followed issuance of the Freeh Report. The statement calls to our attention how deeply vulnerable the academic programs that faculty have worked hard to build have become at universities with major intercollegiate athletics programs, and how powerless even the best systems of campus athletics governance can be to protect their academic missions under current conditions. (See Attached)

- **Adjournment**