The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by the committee chair, David Cheshier. Minutes from the April 26, 2012 meeting were approved.

New committee members were welcomed: Lynda Brown-Wright, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs; Lisa Casanova, Institute for Public Health; Marian Meyers, Women’s Studies Institute; Walt Thompson, Kinesiology & Health; Dan Weiskopf, Philosophy; and Russel White, Physics and Astronomy.

An announcement was made regarding the joint meeting scheduled with the Senate Budget Committee, which occurred October 16. At that meeting, members of both committees were briefed on human resources planning (Robert Elmore and Beth Jones) and on the wider university budgeting situation (Jerry Rackliffe).

Linda Brown-Wright briefed the committee on some upcoming initiatives in which she is involved, including implementation of the University Diversity plan, discussions relating to promotion and tenure, and others.

Peter Lyons updated the committee on the implementation of the faculty Digital Measures system, and on the forthcoming SACS review. He also answered questions relating to the implementation of the gender equity remediation plan that was implemented in the late summer.

The campus-wide IS&T announcement that staff and faculty need not be identified by their full legal name in the Outlook calendar and email system was briefly discussed; it was the result of a request from FAC.

The committee discussed the matter of administrator reviews. In the FY13 cycle, only Provost Palm is undergoing evaluative review. Cheshier agreed to provide the committee with a fuller schedule of coming evaluations.

The committee discussed and adopted a motion that would enable instructional work with honors students to be credited in the review process by which faculty are appointed as Regents Professors.

The committee discussed statewide developments, especially at the University of Georgia, relating to proposals that units of the USG undertake local plans to provide domestic partner
benefits, in such a way as to not expend taxpayer funding or necessitate BOR approval. A subcommittee will be formed to work on this issue and bring recommendations to FAC in the spring.

The committee discussed, at the request of two Senators and the manager of the University Bookstore, whether campus policies on customized textbook materials should be reviewed. The committee had earlier (in 2008) undertaken a review of the issue which at the time was set aside when the USG made system-wide recommendations. As custom textbook materials have proliferated, concerns have been expressed that custom text practices price or lock students out of the used textbook market, compounding cost concerns. A subcommittee will be formed to work on this issue and bring recommendations to FAC in the spring.

Cherian Thachenkary briefed the committee on several HR and benefits issues which will form the agenda of the joint (with Budget) subcommittee he has agreed to chair, including most importantly the issue of whether the state might be persuaded to offer system employees access to a hybrid retirement system.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and accepted by acclamation at 4:45 PM.