In Attendance:
Cathy Archer  Kristen Motz
Dan Burcham  David Pilgrim
Fritz Erickson  Matt Pinter
Don Green  Miles Postema
Kim Hancock  Morgan Toms
Leonard Johnson  John Urbanick
Michelle Johnston  John Willey
Jim Jones  Helen Woodman

Guests:
Ann Breitenwischer, Bea Griffith-Cooper, Susan Hastings-Bishop, Mary Holmes, Meegan Lillis, Dave Nicol, Robbie Teahen

Action:
1. February Meeting Summary
   SPARC members approved the February 185, 2011 meeting summary.

Topic, continued from January: “Online Teaching and Learning”
   Note: Of particular relevance to our discussion today are Initiative #6 under Goal 1, Initiative #5 under Goal 2 in the Strategic Plan. Specifically, what policies and practices need to be put into place as we seek to, “Develop and implement a plan for the F.S.U. online learning environment?” and, “Enhance the sense of community for everyone at F.S.U. including those attending or working online at all FSU sites?”

2. EMAT Survey of FerrisConnect Faculty Results & Discussion
   EMAT chair Robbie Teahen provided members with survey results titled “EMAT Survey of FerrisConnect Faculty” for review and discussion. Survey results may be accessed at http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/online/. Open forums were poorly attended; the survey received a better response. There will also be a robust discussion concerning the future of online learning on March 16, 3-5pm, in Rankin 252. EMAT will develop and present a recommended plan for the next phase of online learning to Provost Erickson based on the forums, survey data and extensive reports. Recommendations will be to better prepare students and faculty, assure better quality of courses and better provide technology support.

3. Technological Support for Online Teaching: An Historical Overview
   SPARC and EMAT member John Urbanick presented “History of Online Learning” PowerPoint presentation (available on: http://www.ferris.edu/strategic-planning/meeting-summary.htm). He shared the following graph, indicating the large increase in online usage.
4. **Blackboard 9.1 Pilot Update**
   EMAT member Mary Holmes shared an update on the Blackboard 9.1 Pilot program. After reviewing products, the team chose to pilot Blackboard (the most widely used online program by universities). There have been some issues with migration. Following feedback from current users, an assessment of the entire product and recommendation will be made at the end of this semester.

5. **FCTL Support**
   Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning members Bea Griffith-Cooper and Meegas Lillis provided an overview of the FCTL. SPARC members shared personal experiences with the Center; such as professional development and learning opportunities, etc. Then they shared the many services provided by the Center (access FCTL information at: [http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/)).

6. **Defining Parameters of Practice**
   Chair Leonard Johnson reminded members of the University mission, vision and core values. He then requested that each member provide comment(s) on items that we should all be able to agree on and should be included in an online policy. The comments will be gathered and distributed with the meeting summary for further remarks and discussion.

**Closing / Next meeting date:**
Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 3:00pm - 5:00pm in the West Campus Community Center where the committee will meet with the Higher Learning Commission visiting team.

Adjourned 4:45pm
Submitted by Elaine R. Kamptner