Faculty Caucus Notes (8/19/2010)

Agenda items from last year/tasks on which the Senate is working or is involved:

\* Honors College proposal for Liberal Studies

\* Religious holidays mandate

\* Liberal Studies task force

\* Faculty Memorial task force

\* Faculty scholarship support

\* Course eval extended by a week

\* Chancellor’s Travel Fund extended to non-tenure and tenure track faculty

\* Effect of power shut-downs on faculty (esp. research)

\* Maternity/Paternity leave

\* 2/4/6 year TPR review

\* Process for determining emeritus faculty

Agenda items for this year and issues raised at the caucus:

*Top items: the role of the Senate and its “identity crisis,” the “culture of fear” and the faculty’s feelings with regard to voice, and the desire to bring faculty members to the fore in decisions that affect them*

\* Election of faculty member for Provost Search Committee: First Senate meeting

\* Academic Integrity Policy: Can the Department of Student Community Ethics make a decision in an academic integrity case that overrides the decision of the faculty member involved in the case?

\* Improving day care on campus

\* Survey about faculty voice/voicelessness issues

\* AAUP (raised by three faculty during the caucus)

\* Task force for getting money for scholarship support

\* Non-tenure/TT representation on Senate: pros and cons discussed

\* Point above led to discussion of the role of the Senate : what is the nature of this particular service and who should be allowed/expected to perform that service? Is the Senate simply “service,” or is this a representative body?

\*The Senate leadership expressed a strong desire to take a more “activist” stance, given the nature of many of the issues raised. There was much discussion of how we can do this and how we can bring the full faculty into the discussion.

\* Point was raised about “moral leadership,” and how such leadership can work to disrupt the “culture of silence” that many faculty feel is pervasive at WCU.

\* Points raised about posting a column in *The Reporter*, delivering an RSS feed, sending out a short list of major issues that will get faculty involved, sending Department Heads key points from Senate meeting so that they can share these with their faculty at department meetings.

\* Point was raised about setting a bad example by voting

anonymously in Senate.

\* The summer responsibilities of 9 month employees: what is our role supposed to be over the summer? Do we want to codify it (before someone does so for us)?

\* Collegiality speaker coming in the fall to discuss issues of collegiality.

\* Incorporation of Cullowhee by Forest Hills

\* Do we want to draft a policy on intimate student/faculty relationships (via email from someone not at the caucus).