Actions Taken by the Faculty Senate:

Motion:
If a course satisfied a general education requirement as a GFR course when the student successfully completed it, and it still holds that designation in the current (GEP) curriculum, then it should fulfill a GEP requirement if that student returns to UMBC or opts into the GEP curriculum.

Background:
Currently, courses can only be used to fulfill GEP requirements if they were taken after they were approved as such by the General Education Committee. Because GEP was not in existence prior to 2007, courses taken prior to that date do not fulfill GEP requirements for any students who return to UMBC.

This motion was passed by the GEC and approved by unanimous vote by the Faculty Senate.

Minutes:
The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. and began with a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Following introductions, Dr. Hrabowski gave the President’s report. He reflected on how important it was to take just a moment to remember September 11th. It was a significant period in our university, one in which we came together to support each other. It is important that we remember who we are.

Craig Rhodes an ACE Fellow and faculty in Graphic Communications Systems and Technological Studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University was introduced. Dr. Rhodes will be spending time at UMBC this year. He is particularly interested in observing our leadership and our shared governance.

Tim Nohe and Kathleen Carroll were congratulated for the superb job they are doing in the campus community as Faculty Senate President and Vice President. President Hrabowski reminded the senators that they represent the faculty voice on campus and encouraged them to keep their departments informed about happenings in the senate.

Provost Rous and Dean LaCourse were congratulated on being officially named to their respective posts. Dean John Jeffries will be retiring at the end of the year and will be greatly missed. Leslie Morgan was thanked for agreeing to chair the search committee for a new dean.
Enrollment is up almost to 13,700 with 3,000 graduate students and approximately 1550 freshmen. SAT scores are up almost twenty points and the incoming class is well prepared for college.

The Baltimore Sun was on campus today to look at the extensive archives we have on the Sun. There will be a large exhibit next spring. Today’s visit was focused on the arts, humanities and social sciences. Several of our theatre students spoke and were very impressive.

There is a 2% COLA in the budget for January 1st. This will be the first increase in four years. The Maryland Charities Campaign is coming up and members of the UMBC community continue to give generously. We have broken ground on Phase II of the PAHB.

In conclusion, Dr. Hrabowski commented that after serving as President of UMBC for twenty years he could not imagine a more amazingly humanistic place to be. He is proud to be part of this community.

As he began the Provost’s Report, Dr. Rous echoed the President’s remarks about the superb work of the Faculty Senate President and Vice President and also thanked everyone for their hard work. He took a moment to thank senators for their support during his term as Interim Provost. He is enjoying his tenure as Provost.

Faculty hiring and hiring plans are topics for discussion on campus. How do we look out 5-10 years or project for retirement? Data is available from the provost for those interested in it.

Approaching the end of the period covered by the Structural Framework for 2016, the campus community has embarked on a new phase of strategic planning. The focus of this year’s annual retreat was the process of planning. Comments were collected from the discussion and when analyzed will be shared with the larger campus community. In this initial year the campus will spend time thinking through the process of planning.

The Provost also discussed the Leadership Retreat that brought members of the President’s Council, senate presidents and the chair of APB to the table. Jim Hogan, an expert in strategic planning from Harvard volunteered to come and talk to the participants about his experience in what works and what doesn’t. A draft of the guiding principles for the strategic planning process was begun at the retreat. When the draft is complete, APB and the senates will be given an opportunity to review and comment on it.

The Academic Innovation Fund has been launched. Seed funding of $500,000 came from Dr. Hrabowski’s Carnegie Award and fund-raising efforts have added a substantial amount. They expect to award $100,000 in academic innovation grants to faculty this year and should be able to maintain that level of annual award on an endowment basis. The first deadline for proposals is October and there is a second in the spring. A selection committee will be put together.

He asked the deans for some recent faculty accomplishments and because there were so many would only highlight a few. Eric Dyer from Visual Arts and Lia Purpura from English were awarded Guggenheim Fellowships. Tyson King Meadows is an American Political Science Fellow. Jessica Berman and Eric Zeemering were recently awarded fellowships. Ray Hoff
received the NASA Distinguished Service Award and John Sturgeon is doing a Fulbright in London. Philip Farabaugh and Cynthia Wagner are new National Academy of Education Fellows. We successfully passed through the NCATE process and passed everything for accreditation on the ABET review.

The provost completed his report by commenting that the new PAHB is amazing. He remembers his first theatre experience as a boy and expressed the hope that we will be able to provide each of our students with that same amazing experience. Senators were asked to think about ways to make that happen. Mary Stuart commented that faculty in her department have contributed to buy a seat in the new theatre.

The minutes from May were approved without correction.

The next order of business was the Faculty Senate President’s report. Senators were asked to approve the proposed Faculty Senate Schedule of Meetings for 2012 and 2013 and the Informal Ground Rules. Both carried by unanimous vote.

President Nohe took a few moments to build on President Hrabowski’s remarks on the responsibility of shared governance. A frequent comment made in breakout sessions at the annual retreat was that shared governance was not perceived as transparent. President Nohe challenged senators to communicate clearly with other faculty in their departments and to come to senate meetings prepared to share faculty concerns and input. Senators were asked to stress that meetings are open to the academic community and that a collegial exchange of ideas was welcome.

President Nohe acknowledged Dean John Jeffries’ long and distinguished service to the university and the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Dean Jeffries is a scholar of note, earned the designation of UMBC Presidential Teaching Scholar and the Regents Award for Teaching Excellence, and was a strong advocate for the arts and humanities at UMBC.

Senators were reminded of the opening celebrations for the new Performing Arts and Humanities Building (PAHB) on September 19th. The celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be attended by Governor O’Malley. Homecoming is October 10-13. There will be some great events, including a Reinventing Radio morning with Ira Glass, host of This American Life. Festivities include a community picnic, a crab feast and a 5k “Dawg Chase.” For additional information email homecoming@umbc.edu.

The Executive Committee Report began with approval of at-large members. President Nohe read the charge and description of committee composition from the Faculty Senate By-laws. At-large members proposed are Senators Jay Freyman (ANCS), Mariajose Castellanos (CBEE), Daniel Ritschel (HIST), Christine Mallinson (LLC) and Ana Oskoz (MLL). By a unanimous show of hands the Faculty Senate approved all proposed at-large members.

Planning has been a central concern of both the Executive Committee and the Administration. A conversation was begun at a recent Executive Tea concerning data released by OIR on the ratio of tenured/tenure-track faculty to adjuncts and faculty retirement trends. This will be part of the ongoing discussions about faculty workload, hiring and retaining tenure-track faculty and
planning for a response to the USM’s 2020 Initiative. Senators will be updated as the discussion progresses.

A working group to oversee the pilot and eventual implementation of the new course evaluation instrument approved by the Senate last year is being put together. If senators or faculty from their department are willing to serve on this group, they should email Tim Nohe at nohe@umbc.edu.

The Executive Committee has requested updates from the Administration on facilities renewal. The request was driven by concerns about our aging campus infrastructure and two recent floods that caused substantial damage. Lynne Schaefer will present a “Good, Bad and Ugly” tour at the next Executive Tea.

Faculty volunteers will also be involved in the planning and implementation of a smoke free campus to be initiated in June of 2013. This is a system-wide policy adopted by the Board of Regents last summer. Senators who wish to be involved in the process should email Tim Nohe.

One final item concerned the presence of Chik-Fil-A on campus. The Executive Committee is exploring this issue with the administration. Senators were asked to discuss this in their departments and report on concerns and comments. Senator Pitts asked if we knew what legal options were open to us as a campus. Potential legal options have not been explored pending results of student-faculty conversations. Senator Robinson asked if there was a written summary or explanation of the issue that could be made available to faculty. President Nohe promised to look for a summary document and forward it to senators to share.

Bruce Walz, Chair of APB reported next. Lynne Schaefer presented a budget update at the APB meeting on September 6th. The committee reviewed the ongoing FY12 closeout and the budget for FY13. A quick snapshot of planning for FY14 was also provided. Currently things are looking pretty good and we are cautiously optimistic going forward. APB also approved the proposed MA in Language, Literacy and Culture (LLC).

Dean Rutledge provided a brief report from the Graduate Council. Marv Mandell will continue this year as the council’s representative to the Faculty Senate. The Graduate Council is jointly constituted with half of the members coming from UM,B and the other half from UMBC. At it’s meeting last week the council approved the MA in LLC.

Marilyn Goldberg, Chair of the General Education Committee (GEC) reported on a motion being put before the senate. Courses taken after 2007 can only fulfill GEP requirements, which is an impediment to returning students who may have begun their studies under the GFR requirements. The GEC moved that courses that satisfied GFR requirements and still hold that designation should count in the event that the student returns to UMBC. The motion was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Kathleen Carroll reported on the University Steering Committee. The committee meets once a month and spent much of the last year working to update the Shared Governance Plan of Organization. The update is complete and all senates will receive copies for review.
Nancy Young and Terri Cook came to the Steering Committee meeting to talk about the on-campus reaction to Chik-Fil-A. There was nothing to report. Stanyell Bruce also attended the meeting to talk about Homecoming. Newly elected chairs of the Steering Committee are Kayleswari Ramu, President of the SGA and Jesse Fox, Vice President of the GSA.

This completed the committee reports. The next item on the agenda was the proposed MA in Language, Literacy and Culture (LLC). As noted above, both the APB and the Graduate Council approved this proposal. There was no discussion. A vote to approve was 25 For and 2 Abstaining.

The final item on the agenda was the International Field Research Program. Vice Provost Moreira commented that this program is closely associated with programs like Global Studies and Ancient Studies that help to internationalize our students. Senators viewed a short video and then Senator Mary Stuart provided an overview. She has sent students to Europe to study for about twelve years and considers them ambassadors to her colleagues there. The International Field Research Program will provide $500 travel grants to students. Fellowships will be targeted to the individual colleges and applications will be juried. There are fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students. Some are through the colleges and others directly from private donors. Outside of Dr. Stuart’s expertise in health administration and public policy there is a need to develop a network of experts to help students succeed. Participants are required to interview experts in their research theme and at least one of these interviews must be with a UMBC faculty expert. Faculty who are interested in participating as faculty experts should contact her directly. Also Dr. Stuart plans to submit a proposal to the Innovation Grant program. A grant would help to expand and improve the program. In response to a senator’s question, Dr. Stuart noted that international students are able to participate in the program and the International Education Services Office helps to facilitate the paperwork. There were no further questions. A brochure describing the program was distributed to senators.

There was no New Business or Old Business to conduct. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn G. Knazik.