Members in attendance: Charles Bodkin, Susan Brooks, Philip Brown (for John Bland), Kathy Buckingham, Ramah Carle, Chris Ervin, Elizabeth Hardin, Sherrie High, Trey O'Quinn, Ken Smith, Gary Stinnett, and Clarisse Turner

Susan Brooks opened today’s meeting by sharing information on the State Assembly’s mandated management flexibility reduction plan, which calls for the universities to charge additional tuition over and above the recommendations of the Board of Trustees in order to manage the 5% budget cut allocated by General Administration for FY2010-11 and provide need-based financial aid.

UNC Charlotte has proposed a $425 tuition increase to be implemented in FY 2010-11 only, with one-half charged in the 2010 Fall Semester and the other half in the 2011 Spring Semester. It will generate $1.7 million for need-based financial aid and $7 million to cover the management flexibility reduction. We chose to use the funds in a thoughtful and methodological way to help those areas that address the classroom and learning environment – what we call the University’s Core.

In the initial planning for FY2010-11, we took measures to hold the fundamental academic core harmless from the initial 5% model for the campus, and instruction was not cut. However, the administrative support for academics and the University core was devastated. This additional $7 million will be used to strengthened our University core and assure our faculty and students have what is needed as they learn.

To determine our use of the new funds, we went back to our initial planning for 2010-11 to pull together a list of items that represented the first $7 million in cuts to come up with a list of 44 items. The list was reversed to determine the highest priority items and cut to 34 items. We had the option of spreading the new tuition over a two-year period, but we are taking it all in the first year. The list is being sent out to the review group as soon as possible so that our proposal may be submitted today by the 3:00 p.m. deadline.

The $7 million from increased tuition has not yet been allocated; it remains in the Chancellor’s reserves. We anticipate a very large amount will go to Academic Affairs.

The first bill with the tuition increase went out to students about July 15. This year, changes in cancellation parameters will go into effect. Students’ registration will no longer be
held past the payment deadline on the basis of having a FAFSA on file. To avoid cancellation, they must now either pay in full or take out a payment plan.

Gary Stinnett took the floor to provide information on the memorandum relative to 2010-2011 appropriation for salaries received from Linda Coleman, State Personnel Director, and Charles Perusse, State Budget Director. Copies of the memorandum were provided to those in attendance, and it has been posted on the VCBA website.

This guidance was derived from the legislation on salary increases and is the same as last year. Attention was called to Item (4), which reiterates the fact that salaries may be increased only for promotions, and job changes. Increases for equity or labor market are not allowed.

While the Budget bill allows salary increases related to an increase in duties and responsibilities such as a reallocation or promotion, the OSBM strongly encourages agencies to restrict salary adjustments to the maximum extent possible. The bill also includes a requirement that the OSBM and the Office of State Personnel monitor jointly the compliance of agencies and universities with the salary freeze provisions. Quarterly reports must be forwarded to the State Assembly on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Stinnett further advised that furlough authority legislation was passed; however, if a campus wishes to use it, they must devise a plan for its use. Within 30 days, the Board of Governors is to provide guidance in its implementation. If a university wishes implement its use, they must first develop a furlough tool that is approved by GA. Many limitations will probably be involved; for instance, guidance from GA states that employees making below $32,000 cannot be furloughed, and a furlough cannot exceed five days.