Motion for an Informal Discussion regarding proposed language to revise the Faculty Handbook to include a Statement of Academic Freedom – Svend Rønning (Music), Faculty Affairs Committee.

Resolved, that the Faculty Assembly hold an Informal Discussion lasting no longer than 15 minutes regarding the addition of a Statement of Academic Freedom to the Bylaws to the Faculty Constitution, Article II, Section 1 (page 12) as presented in attachment D. Introductory remarks lasting no more than 5 minutes will be provided. Discussion will be led by representatives from the Faculty Affairs Committee.

BYLAWS TO THE FACULTY CONSTITUTION, PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

ARTICLE II, SECTION I: STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Universities exist for the preservation, perpetuation and expansion of knowledge and truth. This tradition is grounded in the traditions of the most ancient Western universities. The Lutheran Reformation promoted transformative ideas about the freedom of conscience, interpretation, and inquiry—ideas that contributed to the development of a Lutheran higher education tradition. Institutions in this tradition, like PLU, affirm the rights and responsibilities of all academics to search for truth. This search requires the rights of full academic freedom. Academic freedom is essential to teaching and to research. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth.

The tradition of Lutheran higher education in America (as articulated in the “Mission and History” section of the Faculty Handbook) is congruent with the principles of Academic Freedom that are articulated in the AAUP Statement (1940) of Principles on Academic Freedom:

1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

3. College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.