Call to Order: Jill Whitman, Chair of the Faculty, called the regular February meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. There were 123 persons in attendance.

Opening Prayer: The Reverend Dennis Sepper, University Pastor, offered the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of Dec. 12, 2014: The minutes were approved as distributed.

Question and Answer Period with the President: President Thomas W. Krise was out of town and so unavailable to take questions.

Unfinished Business:

A. Andrea Munro (Chemistry), from the Governance Committee, provided the SECOND READING of a motion to revise the Faculty Bylaws.

Whereas, the current Faculty Handbook language is unclear; and

Whereas, confirming election results ought to be handled by more than any one individual to ensure transparency;

Resolved, that Article III, Section 2.C., of the Faculty Bylaws be revised as presented in Attachment A.

No written amendments to this motion had been submitted. The third reading will be at the March meeting of the Faculty Assembly, when the motion will come to a vote.

New Business:

A. Svend Rønning (Music), Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, introduced a motion to affirm principles of academic freedom.

Whereas, the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University and its governing documents articulate the role of academic freedom as a central principle of the academy; and

Whereas the Lutheran tradition of higher education as practiced at Pacific Lutheran University is congruent with the values articulated in the AAUP Statement (1940) of Principles on Academic Freedom;
Resolved, that the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University formally affirm the following Principles of Academic Freedom that are articulated in the AAUP Statement (1940) of Principles on Academic Freedom and presented in Attachment B.

MOTION PASSED.

B. Svend Rønning (Music), Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, introduced a motion to amend the Bylaws to the Faculty Constitution. FIRST READING.

Whereas, the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University and its governing documents repeatedly mention the role of academic freedom as a central principle of the academy; and

Whereas, the Bylaws of Pacific Lutheran University do not reference Pacific Lutheran University’s Principles of Academic Freedom;

Resolved, that the Faculty Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, be revised to reference Pacific Lutheran University’s Principles of Academic Freedom as presented in Attachment C.

This was the motion’s first reading. Written amendments to the motion are due by noon on Friday, March 6, for consideration at the March 13 faculty meeting.

C. Martin Wurm (Economics), Chair of the Educational Policies Committee, introduced a motion to eliminate the Bachelor of Science major in Computer Engineering pending the completion of required courses for currently-declared majors and minors.

Whereas, enrollment and retention in the Computer Engineering program has been low;

Whereas, a transitional plan is in place to allow current Computer Engineering students to graduate while the program is still accredited; and

Whereas, the elimination of the Computer Engineering major will free up resources to grow the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science majors in Computer Science;

Resolved, that the faculty recommend to the Board of Regents that the major in Computer Engineering be eliminated beginning in Summer 2015.

First speaking to the motion were Laurie Murphy (Computer Science & Computer Engineering) and, at length, Tosh Kakar (Computer Science & Computer Engineering). At one point Provost Starkovich raised a point of order when Dr. Kakar mentioned the provost by name. Also speaking were Patty Dolan (Biology/Nursing), Lorena Guerrero (Nursing), Steve Starkovich (Provost), David Allen (Information & Technology Services), and Jeff Stuart (Mathematics).

A paper ballot had been requested. Ninety-four valid ballots were submitted. The MOTION FAILED, 48-46.

(Item D on the agenda was withdrawn.)
E. Steve Starkovich (Provost) introduced a motion to hold an Informal Discussion.

Resolved, that the faculty hold an Informal Discussion lasting no longer than 20 minutes regarding the Intellectual Property Policy draft currently being reviewed by the Faculty Affairs Committee. Introductory remarks lasting no more than 5 minutes will be provided. Discussion will be led by representatives from the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Provost.

MOTION PASSED.

Following an opening presentation by Steve Starkovich (Provost) and Svend Rønning (Music), participating in the discussion were Sid Olufs (Political Science), Kaitlyn Sill (Political Science), Fabio Ambrosio (Business), Joanne Lisosky (Communication & Theatre), Tamara Williams (Languages & Literatures), Robert Ericksen (History), Karen Travis (Economics), Lorena Guerrero (Nursing), and Dana Zaichkin (Nursing).

Announcements and Communications:

A. Registration access code recommendations. Neal Yakelis (Chemistry), Chair of the Admission & Retention of Students Committee, announced upcoming workshops on the committee’s recommendation that all undergraduate students be required to receive a registration access code from their academic advisor prior to each registration period. These workshops will be Feb. 24 at 9:15 and Feb. 25 at 1:45, in the AUC.

B. “Improving the PLU Experience” newsletter. Dave Veazey, Director of University Assessment, Accreditation & Research, announced this new publication, which will be provided at each Faculty Assembly meeting, highlighting faculty and staff efforts in improving the PLU student experience. Copies of the first issue were handed out prior to the meeting.

C. Commencement application deadline. Kevin Berg (Registrar) reminded the faculty of the new process for prospective August graduates to apply for permission to participate in the previous May’s commencement ceremony. The deadline for such an application (on Banner Web) is March 2; he asked faculty to remind students, including their advisees, of this deadline.

D. Sustainability Fellowship call for proposals. Rosemarie Haberle (Biology), Chair of the University Sustainability Committee, announced a call for proposals for two Sustainability Student Fellowships for 2015-16. Recipients will research existing university practices and report on possible strategies, doing their work either during the summer or else during the academic year. Proposals are due at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2.

E. Lecture by Lt. Col. Celia FlorCruz. Teresa Ciabattari (Sociology), Chair of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, announced by a lecture by Lt. Col. Celia FlorCruz (JBLM) on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6:00 p.m. The title of the lecture is “From Victim to Survivor to Leader: Preventing Sexual Assault in the Military and on Campus.”
F. Lecture by documentary filmmaker Jehane Noujaim. Tamara Williams (Languages & Literatures), Executive Director of the Wang Center for Global Education, announced the second memorial lecture in honor of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens. Jehane Noujaim will present “The Square: An Eyewitness Account of the Egyptian Revolution and the Downfall of a Regime” on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. (A free screening of the film, open to the public, will precede the lecture at 5:00 p.m.) Faculty are invited to attend themselves and to encourage, or even require, students to attend.

G. Eighth Annual Powell-Heller Holocaust Education Conference. Robert Ericksen (History), from Holocaust and Genocide Studies, announced that this year’s conference is March 4-6, with the theme of “Children’s Voices: the Holocaust and Beyond.” He invited faculty to encourage, or even require, students to attend some of the sessions.

H. Board of Regents Report. Kevin O’Brien (Religion), Faculty Representative to the Board, reported on the recent meeting of the Board of Regents. He noted in particular that the chair of the Board’s Academic Affairs Committee had asked him to communicate to the faculty that the Regents are aware of, and deeply grateful for, the hard work and sacrifices of faculty in this challenging budget year.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith J. Cooper
Faculty Secretary