Motion to Faculty Council re Statistically Valid Surveys of Student Ratings of Instructional Performance:
Professor Hill, presented a concern regarding the voluntary online student instructional rating. Professor Hill began looking at the system a few months ago. He learned that the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and UCAP have been looking into this system. Professor Hill indicated he was fully supportive of what is being done but what he was proposing was supportive of their efforts. Professor Hill proposed the following “motion to Faculty Council that affirms that statistically valid surveys of student ratings of instructional performance, whereas imperfect, are one essential component in the assessment of instructional quality. Faculty Council also finds that voluntary online surveys are, in general, too suspect statistically to fill this role. Therefore, Faculty Council finds that voluntary online surveys are not in general suitable vehicles for fulfilling this role regardless of their budgetary appeal, and Faculty Council strongly endorses the implementation of statistically valid options on as fast a track as possible.” The motion was supported. Professor Hill supported his stance by noting the results of voluntary online surveys of instructional performance cannot be validly used to support either positive or negative evaluations of personnel. In addition, students are deprived of actionable voice in the assessment of instructional performance when statistically valid surveys are replaced with voluntary online surveys. High performing instructors are also deprived of actionable recognition based on student assessment when statistically valid surveys are replaced with voluntary online surveys. This motion is a supporting statement that the current option be phased out. Some faculty voiced that they supported a paper pencil survey. Professor Crimp reported that UCAP is running a pilot program this summer with the online survey to gather some data. Following some further discussion the motion was passed.