Members present: Tamer Ceylan, Robert Fidrych, Mittie Nimocks, Marc Shelstrom, Barbara Parsons, Ken Buttry, Stephanie Bransom, Jason Styles, and Ray Spoto.

Visitors: Sue Price, Mike Compton and two students whose names went unrecorded.

Representing the Provost: Chuck Collins, Associate Vice Chancellor

1. This being the first APC meeting of the semester and there being no Chair elected yet, Assoc. Vice Chancellor Collins called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. in 320 Brigham.

2. Parsons agreed to record the minutes for this meeting.

3. Ken Buttry was elected Chair of the APC; Barbara Parsons was elected Vice Chair.

4. Collins, who noted that Provost Butts was currently at a meeting of the Board of Regents, distributed a 49 page document concerning a Proposal for Authorization to Implement A New Academic Program for a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from the School of Agriculture in the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture.

   a). Discussion ensued regarding the status of this Proposal that the current APC was just seeing for the first time. Sue Price, Director of the School of Agriculture, noted that she had spoken with Provost Butts about the proposed program in the spring and that after their joint review of the document in May, Price thought that it would be on the APC's agenda for our first meeting in September. Given Price's understandable expectation in this regard plus the fact that unless the APC officially 'heard' the Ornamental Horticulture proposal at this time so that the body could act on it at its next meeting (a time frame necessary if the program has a chance of moving through the last hoop of approval by the Board of Regents in order for the "degree initiation" to take place at the beginning of next semester) members agreed to make this meeting the first of its two on the proposal.

   b). Mike Compton, Assistant Prof. of Horticulture and Plant Biotechnology, then proceeded to point out salient points concerning the
proposed new major: it grows out of a horticulture minor that has existed here for over 25 years; it will be interdisciplinary with faculty and staff participating from Agriculture and the Depts. of Biology and of Business and Accounting; it will include three emphases (Business and Marketing, Science and Technology, and Genetics); at least 40 students are expected to enroll in the program in the future; most of the courses to be offered are already in place; and the sponsoring agents are "not looking now to hire any new person" to staff the program.

c). Some discussion was given to the projected new state-of-the-art greenhouse, too. Although how much it will cost is still unknown, Collins described the State Building Commission's approval of the project and the availability of money for it as "manna from heaven."

d). Spoto asked Compton what he meant when he referred to the proposed new program as "more focused" than other "somewhat similar" programs extant in the state (e.g. at Madison and River Falls, the latter of which has 60 majors). Compton replied that Platteville's program was designed "to fill a niche" in what is now "the fastest growing part of horticulture" by having "more technical courses"--such as 'lase. technology," for instance.

e). Parsons wondered whence the estimated "startup cost" of "between $75,000 and 100,00011 for the "development of a new horticultural garden" (mentioned on p. 46 of the document) would come. Compton said that that passage in the document referred to "a long-range dream project." He added that there was no expectation "to have and to use that kind of money right away." Instead he ventured that it would take over ten or fifteen years or even more to establish the kind of "endowment" envisioned and that the development of this endowment could come through "the Capital Campaign."

f). Ceylan, referring to p. 10 of the proposal, asked: "How did you arrive at your three emphases (i.e., Business and Marketing, science and Technology, and Breeding and Genetics)?"

Compton: "Most of these were selected based on the surveys we sent out."

Ceylan: "Which do you think might be most popular?" To this question Compton replied that he thought that "the Business & Marketing emphasis is probably going to be the most popular."

g) Buttrry raised two questions. 1) Has System been in on the planning? Yes; and Fran Garb has been the System rep. and has been very helpful, particularly regarding development of the internship program. 2) Have there been any reports from advisors outside the school? Again the answer was affirmative with details given on three reviewers, one a professor of agriculture at Southern Illinois Univ. and the other two from industry.
h). Compton concluded by noting that the USDA had provided grant money of about $9,000 that enabled him to have a quarter release time to develop the proposed new major.

i). There being no further questions or comments regarding the document, it was agreed that the APC would take final action on it at its next meeting (on 9/23).

5. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (held on 4/22/99) was postponed until the next meeting.

6. Buttry asked if there was anything further to be discussed. What follows is a summary of comments made concerning several issues that were raised.

a). Parsons said she thought it would be well for all APC members to be familiar with the university's governance structure and in particular the Faculty Bylaws concerning the role and responsibilities of the APC in that structure.

In conjunction with that plea Parsons also asked

1) when we might be seeing what the aforementioned Bylaws refer to as the Chancellor's broad plan for apportioning the university's resources" and

2) that we remember and take seriously the Faculty Senate's last substantive motion, passed "without dissent" at its final meeting last spring (on 5/11/99), which states: "Consistent with the tradition of shared governance on this campus, the Faculty Senate urges the chancellor and vice chancellor to take no action on any of the five areas of concern articulated by the Vice Chancellors Task Force on Academic Directions until such initiatives have been fully discussed by the Academic Planning Council and the Faculty Senate and specific recommendations are forthcoming from those shared governance bodies."

b). Branson indicated that she would like to see a discussion of "the five areas of concern" noted by the "Vice Chancellors Task Force" referred to in the just quoted Faculty Senate action. Branson also asked that the newly elected APC Chair (Buttry) make this an agenda item for the APC in the near future.

c). Collins then offered as an item "mostly for /our/ information" some descriptive comments regarding a "Winterim" session of two weeks between the end of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring one. What follows is a summary of what Associate Vice Chancellor Collins had to say about Winterim.
1) "We had to get it started this summer," Collins said.

2) He noted that while he didn't know where exactly the idea (for Winterim) came from, he could tell us that there are only two universities in the System that don't have a Winterim and that we are one of them.

3) Tenure-lin 'e faculty will be given the first chance to teach Winterim courses, for which a teacher could receive up to $1,000 per credit given an appropriate number of students enrolled in a given class (i.e., 17?). If not enough fulltime faculty volunteer to teach such courses, then academic staff teachers will be invited to teach them.

4) "The tuition collected," Collins said, "is what pays for the program."

5) Furthermore, Collins, noted: "We're looking to have about 8 to 10 courses to start with" ("most schools have started small," he added) and that probably these will be courses to satisfy general requirements. "It's a good time to get a jump on general requirements, he said. He also said that "anything special," including, for example, "internships" or possibly courses "involving some international study," would be suitable.

6) Collins concluded by saying that since there was no intention either to have dorms open during the Winterim or to have food services available, classes in this session would be for students who are "in town," including "possibly students from other schools who have come home to Platteville" for this period of time.

d). Parsons commented on Collins' description of what Winterim would involve by noting that since she did not know that there was a polite way of expressing her thoughts about what she had just heard, she would simply cut to the chase and say that the whole way in which Winterim was being put forth seemed a clear example of the administrations doing another end run around the faculty's rightful role in the governance of the University. More specifically, she questioned the appropriateness of faculty being invited to propose courses for Winterim before faculty were even consulted about either the necessity or the desirability of having Winterim courses.

e). Collins responded by saying it was never the administration's intention to circumvent the faculty's governance role on this issue and that, in fact, he and others had met with officers of the Faculty Senate in the summer to talk about Winterim. He also stressed that time was of the essence and that if a start toward initiating Winterim wasn't made when was made, there wouldn't be time to "set it up in January."
f). Parsons wondered: "Why the hurry?" and given the fact that Winterim courses could clearly have curricular implications, why the UUCC, for example, had not been involved in any discussion concerning the two week session.

g). Branson commented that she was "concerned about the quality of education" that could be found in a course for three credits that would be taught in two weeks. She emphasized, in particular, her disbelief that any course that was "reading and writing intensive" could possibly be done in such a short time. She added, too, that she thought that, contrary to Collins' stress on the need to get started early enough in order to have a Winterim session in January, the real question was whether we should set it up in January.

7. Buttry said: "Let's put it/i.e., Winterim/ on the agenda for the next meeting," and all appeared to agree that that was a good idea.

S. ceylan moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded and passed; and adjournment came at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara Parsons, Secretary Pro Tem