Members were introduced and an overview of URPC was given. Information about the URPC, its subcommittees, and annual reports and minutes are all posted on the Faculty Senate web pages: http://www.purdue.edu/senate/committees/index.html.

During the introduction, a question was raised about what does the URPC ‘actually do.’ The work was described as providing feedback for units of the Purdue administration when they wanted to propose changes or updates on activities they have been working on. UPRC may also propose policy changes, more proactively, and they have created committees for specific purposes, such as the BIER and Sustainability committees.

The committee appointed two members to the Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, and Review Committee: Pam Aaltonen and Chris Kulesza. Also appointed Doug Nelson as vice-chair of URPC for this year.

Discussion led by Bill Sullivan about priorities in the Treasurer’s Office. His main concerns are to: drive revenues, create efficiencies, and increase student affordability. His priorities are to get a handle on the university’s finances and ‘simplify and make incredibly transparent’ the budgeting and reporting structure for the university. Some particular areas of interest are understanding the scope of physical facility projects—balancing the resources we have not only to purchase but to manage, reconciling Purdue’s budgets to their financial statements, and understanding at a deeper level what it is the university spends its money on.

Some of the questions from committee members included:

What is the link between strategy and budgeting, and how can we tell how aligned they are?
How can we get answers about the status of individual facilities projects?  
(Answer: Ask Mike Cline)

How can we tell how student fees are actually being used?

Due to the robust discussion, the committee postponed the presentation of Mike Cline until our next meeting, as well as brainstorming of issues URPC should tackle this coming year.