Members in attendance: Barta, Bullock, Dhiman, Fagerheim, MacAdam and Sherlock

1. Minutes of the January 2006 meeting were approved.

2. Report by PRPC chair on the Faculty Senate meeting of February 6, 2006
In response to a charge from the Senate, PRPC revised the wording of new code relevant to the Deans’ tenure and promotion advisory committees. The code was revised to the following:

*Any advisory committee formed to evaluate the candidate shall also utilize an ombudsperson and make the names of the members of the committee known to the college.*

3. The chair reported on items from the previous PRPC meeting that will go forward to Senate for the first time at the March FS meeting:
   - Clarification of Revision of Role Statement
   - Deadline for Initial Promotion Committee Meeting Suggestion to move forward four months
   - Role Statement Criteria for Award of Tenure and Promotion Excellence in a minor role
   - Temporary Vacancies on Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committees Code sufficient

4. Academic Rights and Responsibilities:
   - The following documents were provided to members of PRPC:
     1. Changes suggested to Code 403, which includes i. Academic Freedom, Freedom and Responsibilities of the University and ii. Professional Responsibility, Standards of Conduct – Responsibilities to Student. A new section is proposed on Freedom and Course Content.
     - It was noted that these draft code sections were presented to Faculty Senate by the chair of the Academic Rights and Responsibilities (ARR) Committee before any review by PRPC, in violation of code. It was also noted that in the letter from the ARR chair to the PRPC chair inviting membership in the ARR Committee, it was stated that the ARR Committee would “present any policy recommendations to the Professional Responsibilities and Procedures Committee and Academic Freedom and Tenure committee.” rather than directly to the Faculty Senate.
     2. The entire Excused Absences Policy, with a new section at the end addressing absences for religious obligations
     3. A new section for the USU Academic Policies and Procedures Manual entitled Resolution of Conflict between Course Content and Sincerely-Held Core Beliefs
     - It was noted with some concern that most of the additions to the code and essentially all of the conflict resolution material have been cut and pasted from the U of U Accommodation Policy
     4. An email from Lynn Dudley to the PRPC chair clarifying the different legal positions resulting from the faculty making ad hoc accommodations vs. the adoption of an accommodation policy that applies to the university as a whole. Lynn also explained that the legal standing of the term “sincerely held core beliefs” originates from references to the beliefs of conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War.
     5. U of U Accommodation Policy, a summary of the Axson-Flynn v. Johnson decision, and letters from Stan Albrecht forming the ARR Committee and from Lynn Dudley noted above.

PRPC members will read the material pertaining to this issue, gather additional relevant information, and discuss the accommodation policy further at the next scheduled meeting.