Chairperson Gliozzo called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm. Members in attendance: Jenny Bond, Joseph Chartkoff, Alan Fisher, Rita Gallin, Charles Gliozzo, James Rainey, Evelyn Rivera, David Rovner, Albert Sparrow, and Gary Stone.

I. WELCOME: Chairperson Gliozzo explained the absences of the other Steering Committee members. He introduced Ann Leming, of the Hearing Loss Association of America. She discussed her experiences with hearing loss and its effects at meetings to see if her topic would be of interest for a presentation in the future at the FEA lecture series.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2013, MINUTES: James Rainey noted that the March minutes did not include the name of Hal Hepler as a member of the Awards Committee and proposed that his name be added to the March minutes. Gary Stone moved, and Rita Gallin seconded, that the March minutes be approved as thus modified. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Though Pauline Adams was unable to attend today’s Steering Committee meeting, she forwarded the news that the Board of Trustees would not meet until later this month, so there was no news to report at this point.

IV. NOMINATION COMMITTEE - JENNY BOND: The Committee had not met in the past several weeks due to several members being away from campus. The Nominations Committee plans to determine which members of the current Steering Committee will be leaving when their terms expire, and which ones would be willing to stay for an additional term. They also will seek recommendations for new members of the Steering Committee, and for Steering Committee officers in the positions where the current office-holders have completed their terms as allowed by the By-Laws. Nominations will need to be made in time for the FEA annual meeting in May, when the choices will be made.

V. FACULTY SENATE AND HEALTH CARE – GARY STONE: The University’s Health Care group has not met recently. An issue it is exploring is the creation of a new on-campus clinic to serve retirees. The Health Care group likely will not meet until it develops a format for this objective. This effort reflects a recognized need to remain aware of health care coverage for retirees in the future. Current increases in health care coverage for faculty and staff overall is in the level of $3-6 million per year. Its impact on retirees has not yet been examined, and remains an important topic to follow.

The Faculty Senate did meet already in April. President Simon discussed the Federal sequester policies, and indicated that it would not have a significant impact on MSU. Asst. Vice President David Byelich discussed the impacts on MSU of the state’s budget situation. The state is planning to increase its funding for MSU by 2-3% if MSU
does not increase tuition rates by more than 2-3%. MSU appears to not be significantly affected by the Right-to-Work law that went into effect on March 28th.

Also at the Faculty Senate meeting, it was reported that the University Curriculum Committee had approved a number of changes in the curriculum. It also was reported that the search for a new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs will likely take a year or more to be completed. Also not yet far advanced is the search for a new Dean of International Studies and Programs.

Also discussed was a controversy that emerged over a requirement in the By-Laws of the University Committee for Faculty Affairs that non-tenured faculty be appointed to serve on that committee. Most colleges have provided such members, but the College of Engineering recently protested that such service placed unfair burdens on junior faculty seeking tenure, and proposed to have the By-Laws be altered. That proposal was voted down, however.

VI. UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AND LECTURE SERIES – BRUCE MILLER: Dr. Miller was not able to attend the Steering Committee meeting, so no new information was presented.

VII. PREPARATIONS FOR MAY MEETING: The May meeting is the annual meeting for the Faculty Emeriti Association, as well as the monthly meeting for the FEA Steering Committee. The current plan is to hold the meeting at the Kellogg Center on Wednesday, May 22nd, at 2:30 PM. When a room has been reserved for the meeting, FEA members will be advised by e-mails and other methods about the planned meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF FEA AWARDS – JIM RAINNEY: The FEA awards were presented at the annual MSU Retirees Association luncheon at the Kellogg Center on April 2nd. In contrast with previous decisions, a unit award was presented. It was given to the MSU Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. Two individuals were given awards, as well: George W. Bird (Professor Emeritus of Entomology) and Ralph J. Votapek (Professor Emeritus of Music). The recipients were chosen by Awards Committee members Jim Rainey, Linda Nelson and Hal Hepler.

IX. STATUS OF FEA HISTORY PROJECT – JOE CHARTKOFF: FEA history research was continued, but with less completion than in the previous month because Chartkoff was away from campus for two weeks on several projects. Progress was made, however, in compiling the history of the FEA involvement with the Board of Trustees, the Academic Council and the Faculty Senate, as well as gaining information about the FEA’s Oral History Recording Project from the MSU audio collections archives.

X. ORAL HISTORY – PAULINE ADAMS: Pauline Adams provided information that she conducted a recorded oral history interview in the last month with Distinguished Professor James Potchen of the Radiology Department. She seeks suggestions about other significant faculty to interview.

XI. NEW BUSINESS: Chairperson Gliozzo noted that 47 faculty retired this year. Their names will be added to the list for the FEA by John Forsyth. Chairperson Gliozzo also
drew thankful attention to the fact that Steering Committee member David Rovner had recovered enough from his medical problems that he was able to attend our meeting.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in the Kellogg Center, as part of the FEA annual meeting. The meeting room is yet to be determined -- notice will be sent by email.

Submitted by: Joe Chartkoff