The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by John Toney, MD, Treasurer of the Faculty. Dr. Toney was substituting for President Samuel Saporta, who was unable to attend.

Minutes

Dr. Toney asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes of the January Faculty Council meeting. There were none and a motion was made for approval. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Overview: Breakfast Conversations with Dean Klasko

An overview of last year’s “Breakfast with the Dean” conversations was presented by Lissette Campos, Director of Strategic Communications, USF Health. Ms. Campos was invited by Vice President Lynn Ringenberg, who chairs the recently created Faculty Council Communication Task Force. The breakfast conversations with the Dean were informal, small group sessions that were held with faculty from all departments of the College of Medicine from December 2006 through December 2007. There were no set agendas for the breakfasts, and faculty were encouraged to ask whatever questions they wished. Feedback obtained from faculty indicated that they enjoyed the informal sessions and viewed them as a good source of information from Dean Klasko. They also appreciated the opportunity to network with other faculty. Recurring areas of faculty questions and concerns included AIMS, budget issues and hospital affiliations.

Sovereign Immunity

The topic of sovereign immunity was discussed by R. B. Friedlander, Deputy General Counsel, and Bryan Burgess, Associate Vice President for Corporate and Transitional Affairs. Also in attendance were John Liston and Jennifer Adams from the Risk Management Office. Sovereign immunity applies to USF employees and those contracted to USF, acting within the scope of their employment and function. This includes basic scientists as well as practicing clinicians. State law places a cap on liability of $100,000 per person and $200,000 per occurrence, and requires legislative approval of a claims bill for payments exceeding the cap. USF is the sovereign entity and, therefore, it is important that clinical faculty realize that they are employed by the University, and not UMSA or the USF Physicians Group. USF will incur the cost of the
defense and will defend vigorously any employee acting on behalf of USF, within the force and scope of their employment or function.

**Other Business**

Dr. Toney called attention to an editorial that appeared in the *St. Petersburg Times* on February 18th, which expressed opposition to a hospital for USF. He encouraged the faculty to read the editorial and perhaps send comments to the newspaper if so motivated.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.