Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X  Chair Ms. Rhonda Smiley
X  Member Ms. Mary Ann Slattery
X  Member Mr. J. Anthony Snorgrass
X  Member Mr. John Zawacki
X  Member Mr. Gilbert Castro
X  Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present)
E (Excused)
U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Smiley called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Commissioners Slattery, Snorgrass, Zawacki and Castro were present. Administrator Benien was present. Tom Wiss, Legislative Auditor, was present for a portion of the meeting.

Public Comment:  One member of the public was present to observe, but did not comment.

Old Business:

Minutes of the Approved April 2, 2009 meeting were distributed. Proposed Minutes of the May 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. A Motion to Approve the Minutes as corrected was made by Commissioner Zawacki with a second by Commissioner Slattery. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Benien provided a printed copy of the April Monthly Administrator’s Report which was verbally presented at the May meeting. Administrator Benien reviewed the May monthly report with the Commission which outlined the training provided in May, 2009 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.
Basic Ethics training sessions were provided for members of the Unified Government Commission and employees of the UG Administrator and Mayor’s offices on May 14, 2009 and May 21, 2009. All UG Commissioners except the Mayor have now received Ethics training. A training time with the Mayor is being scheduled.

Three new complaints were received. One was resolved by the department involved prior to any action by the Office of the Administrator. Sixteen complaints are pending. Seven complaints were resolved. Six verbal advisory opinions were provided. Two new requests for written advisory opinions were received. One request for an advisory opinion was withdrawn as the underlying matter was resolved. A written request for an advisory opinion received June 10, 2009 was distributed to the Commissioners and reviewed. Administrator Benien will prepare a response. Three other requests for an advisory opinion are outstanding. Redacted versions of advisory opinions prepared by the Office of the Administrator in March, April and May, 2009 were distributed to the Commissioners.

The status of the updates and revisions to the Ethics Code was reviewed. Administrator Benien advised that proposed changes to the Ethics Code prepared through the legal department are to be considered at the UG Standing Committee meeting scheduled for 6 p.m., June 15, 2009. Administrator Benien advised she would attend the meeting.

As requested at the May meeting, Administrator Benien distributed a current copy of the Code with the re-codified numbers via e-mail to the Commissioners prior to the meeting.

New Business:

Legislative Auditor Wiss was present to have the current UG Commissioners review their biographical information for accuracy and corrections or additions for a press release announcing the appointment of the new UG Ethics Commissioner. Administrator Benien announced that Janey Humphries has been selected as the new UG Ethics Commissioner. She will replace Commissioner Slattery whose term will expire August 1, 2009.

Commissioner Snorgrass raised the question of establishing a policy or procedure with respect to the circumstances under which Ethics Commission meetings would or should be rescheduled due to conflicts with the established date. It was agreed to leave the regularly scheduled meetings on the first Thursday of each month and that so long as the Ethics Administrator was available to be present, the meetings would not be rescheduled so long as a quorum could be met.

Report on the availability of the UG TV channel was provided by Administrator Benien. Given the current budget constraints and time demands it was agreed that no further action with respect to filming or taping would be taken at this time.

Discussion was had regarding the anti-retaliation provisions of the UG Ethics Code and the need to ensure that all UG personnel are aware of that section of the Code and its
protections. Motion was made by Commissioner Slattery to direct the Ethics Administrator to prepare a Memorandum for distribution and conveyance to all UG employees, commissioners and board members advising them of the anti-retaliation provisions. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Snorgrass. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment:**

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Snorgrass.

Seconded by Commissioner Castro

Passed Unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Next Meeting is July 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien
Ethics Administrator