APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are the official minutes.

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
November 16, 2016

Present: Richard Benson, Hobson Wildenthal, Robert Ackerman, Naofal Al Dhair, Pranas Balsara, Karen Baynham, Elizabeth Bell, Dinesh Bhatia, Patrick Brandt, Gail Breen, Thomas Brikowski, David Cordell, Ovidiu Daescu, Chris Davis, Gregg Dieckmann, Vladimir Dragovic, Frank Dufour, Eric Farrar, William Hefley, Jennifer Holmes, M. Ali Hooshyar, Joe Izen, Dohyeong Kim, Midori Kitagawa, Murray Leaf, Syam Menon, Simeon Ntafos, Naim Ozel, Ravi Prakash, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Tim Redman, Christopher Ryan, Mohammad Saquib, Betsy Schlobohm, Richard Scotch, Shilyh Warren, Tonja Wissinger, Alejandro Zentner

Absent: Kurt Beron, Judd Bradbury, R. Chandrasekaran, Nadine Connell, Lev Gelb, Gopal Gupta, Julie Haworth, Annelise Heinz, Kimberly Hill, D.T. Huynh, Radha Mookerjee, BPS Murthi, Tres Thompson, Jeremy Vickers, Subbarayan Venkatesan,


1. Call to Order
Speaker Tim Redman called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. President Benson was running late and would give his announcements when he arrived.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Murray Leaf moved to amend the agenda to move the ECS name change discussion to the position immediately after the Speakers Report and to accept the amended agenda. Joe Izen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of the October 19, 2016, Minutes
Richard Scotch moved to approve the minutes. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker’s Report – Tim Redman
   1. The inauguration of President Benson went well. Speaker Redman presented the ceremonial university mace to President Benson.
   2. All items other items are on the agenda.

5. Changes in the structure of ECS – Mark Spong
A change was proposed to change the department of ‘Electrical Engineering’ to ‘Electrical Engineering and Computer Science’. The new title fits the expertise of the faculty and the current courses offered. The school faculty voted on the name change, and it was approved. The name change will not affect any of the degrees. The change was purely administrative, with no other impact in the university. The school governing bodies have representation from both electrical
engineering and computer science already, which will continue into the future. Normally the change would go through the Committee on Educational Policy, then come to Academic Council, then Senate for approval. The rational for not processing through the normal channels is that the rebranded materials for the upcoming graduation ceremonies, and materials must be ordered now in order to have them in time for the events. Also, the name change must be finalized by November 18, 2016, in order for it to be in the spring 2017 Course Catalog. Richard Scotch moved to approve the change, and noted that in the future all name changes will go through the CEP. Bill Hefley seconded. The motion carried.

6. Informational: School Bylaws Update – Tim Redman
Going forward each school’s representative on the Academic Council will work with their Dean to facilitate the bylaws revision and approval process.

7. UT Dallas’s SACSCOC Reaffirmation Project – Serenity King
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has changed the responsible agency for complaint procedures from the College Readiness and Success Division to the THECP’s Office of General Counsel (OGC). The University is at higher risk of not being informed if OGC refers complaint to SACSCOC.

Current:
After exhausting the institution’s grievance/complaint process, current, former, and prospective students may initiate a complaint with THECB by submitting the required forms along with evidence of their completion of their institution’s complaint procedures. Complaints may be submitted using one of the following three options:
  o Completing the online student complaint form (an updated fillable PDF version)
  o Email
  o Mailing forms to the Office of General Counsel (OGC)

Previous:
After exhausting the institution’s grievance/complaint process, current, former, and prospective students may initiate a complaint with THECB by sending the required forms either by:
  o Email
  o Mailing forms to the College Readiness and Success Division

SACSCOC Policy: Complaint Procedures against SACSCOC or Its Accredited Institutions has also been updated.

Current:
Individual complaints will be retained in the SACSCOC files for a period of one year following final formal notification to the complainant regarding the resolution of the complaint. Based on complaints submitted during this period of time and/or on a series of notification letters to previous complainants that suggest a pattern of concern that may evidence a significant lack of compliance with the Principles that was not evident from any one individual complaint, SACSCOC may renew its consideration of the matter for whatever action may be appropriate.

Previous:
Individual complaints will be retained in the Commission files. Should a number of individual complaints suggest a pattern of concern that may evidence a significant lack of compliance with the Principle that was not evident from any one individual complaint, the Commission may renew its consideration of the matter for whatever action may be appropriate.

The Compliance Certification Report (CCR) Work Plan has been updated. The timeline and status can be viewed at http://doc.utdallas.edu/diagram1136. November 1 was the due date for the required narratives. Eighty-seven of ninety-six first drafts were received on time. The SACSCOC reaffirmation team can now begin compiling the report that is due September 2017.

8. Texas Council of Faculty Senates and UT System Faculty Advisory Council Reports—Murray Leaf & David Cordell

The TCFS met October 28-29, 2016, in Austin. Murray Leaf and Richard Scotch represented UT Dallas. The following report was submitted by Murray Leaf.

TCFS meeting are always held jointly with Texas AAUP and the Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT). Some of the events are usually attended by all.

The TCFS had sessions on two main topics. Both are of concern to UTD.

The first speaker was Rana Jaleel, assistant professor at UC Davis. She reviewed a recent AAUP study on the implications of Title IX and Title IX enforcement for academic freedom. The title is The History, Uses, and Abuses of Title IX. It is available on the AAUP website. The report notes substantially the same concerns that the UT Dallas Senate addressed in our resolution on Title IX. Among other things, it was concerned with the way Title IX enforcement distorts and interferes with other kinds of safety concerns and with the larger concern of Title IX itself, which is to end all gender discrimination and not just sexual assault. She also said that the law does not require faculty to be mandatory reporters, and she noted the same problems with making them mandatory reporters that we have been concerned with. After the session ended, I introduced myself and said I was from UT Dallas. Her immediate reaction, before I said anything else, was to apologize for not mentioning our resolution. She said that she had intended to recommend it as a good example of what a governance organization could do. It had been sent to the committee by Anita Levy, director the AAUP division concerned with academic freedom. I had sent it to Levy shortly after we had approved it. On the basis of Jaleel’s description of the committee’s response, we can be confident that our view of the law is the same as that of the AAUP.

The second event was a film entitled Starving the Beast. It documents the current attack on higher education represented by former Governor Perry and UT Regents associated with the Texas Public Policy Foundation and puts it in a substantially wider context than has usually been done by the press. It connects the events in Texas to similar events in other states including Louisiana, Wisconsin, Virginia, and North Carolina. The TCFS members agreed that the film clearly and accurately lays out the breadth of the attack, the means by which it has been carried out, the main political and financial players, and what is at stake.

The next section of the program was devoted to campus roundup reports. Recurrent themes included concerns with salary equity, compression, and inversion, writing or revising
academic policy, how Senates should be organized, tuition, and student debt. The reports were followed by a discussion attempting to draw out possible themes for future TCFS meetings.

The evening event was a banquet to be followed by the guest speaker, the new provost of UT Austin, Maurie McInnis. She was unable to come. So instead the time was devoted to further discussion of the film.

The next morning was a business meeting and further discussion of the roundup reports. The problem that resonated most strongly was how to make governance more effective. One drift in the discussion seemed to assume that this depended on having the right provost, and there was discussion of a possible panel of provosts. Another drift was responsive to the idea that effective governance depended on how well the faculty organized themselves. This led to questions about how faculty senates actually were organized and what they actually did. There is great variety. A possible panel with representatives from schools with effective and ineffective systems was discussed but nothing was resolved. Murray Leaf agreed to recirculate a protocol based on the survey of governance organizations among TCFS members that he designed in 2003. This could be used as an experience-based template.

The group also approved a motion to write a resolution briefly describing the film, commending the director and producer, and recommending appropriate audiences. Murray Leaf would provide an initial draft. Murray Leaf reported that should the university wish to have a showing of the film the cost would be $350.

The TXCFS applauded Dr. Leaf's contributions to the organization over the years as a member of their executive council and various offices and awarded him a plaque in tribute to those achievements. He has been helpful mentoring senates from other institutions that have not had the success that our university has had. The Faculty Senate joined in with the applause.

The floor was then turned over to David Cordell. The UTS- FAC had not met since the last senate meeting. Dr. Cordell gave an update on the concern of dual credit. This originated with the FAC but was turned over to institutional research at system. The have visited UT-Tyler, UT-San Antonio, UT-Austin, and finished student focus groups on November 15, 2016. They group has a big interest in speaking with faculty who are directly involved with students who are likely to have come through dual credit programs. In December FAC will decide when they will visit each university campus. They are continuing to do research but they are not sure about their findings at this point.

9. Announcements – President Benson

At this time President Benson was able to arrive and give his announcements. The President had been returning from a regents meeting in Austin, Texas. From that meeting he had two take-aways. Our university received approval for $89 million for the new math and science building. The Permanent University Fund (PUF) money will be thin for years, but in that time significant projects will be done. Private money has not been raised yet, however that is not to say that fundraising for
buildings, and other projects will not be done. It was noted that if the university wishes to have art space on campus, we must raise the money.

UT Dallas is the last UT System School not to be tobacco free. An announcement regarding making the campus tobacco free will be distributed soon.

President Benson followed the election response. He sent out the following statement campus wide.

To the UT Dallas Family.

According to recent news reports, incidents of intolerance in the United States are on the rise. Unfortunately, some incidents have been reported on college and university campuses.

I want to emphasize that UT Dallas remains strongly committed to supporting our diverse and inclusive campus community. All who work and learn on this campus, as well as those who visit, are treated with respect, regardless of, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, military status or sexual orientation.

Our university strives to foster a campus culture in which all voices are heard and valued, differing ideas are treated thoughtfully, and every individual is afforded dignity. We take this seriously enough to have in place resources that can guide and counsel members of our family who are concerned.

At the 2016 Convocation, I gave the following advice to our newest students that is applicable across campus:

You are about to make friends with many scholars who have vastly different life experiences than you. Learn from them, and share your story, too. This also applies to the diversity of ideas. Allow yourself to be challenged. Present your own arguments when you feel strongly about a matter, but always do so in a respectful way. It is OK to hold your ground in a dorm room debate but, as a rule-of-thumb, if you never change your mind on any topic then it is a safe bet that you are not learning and you are not growing intellectually.

When we all approach each other in such a manner, then we can embrace the real meaning of being a member of the UT Dallas family.

Sincerely,
Richard C. Benson
President
Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership
President Benson commended Inga Musselman for being a fine provost over the last year. The Senate joined President Benson by applauding her hard work. He opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

10. Student Government Report – Akshitha Padigela -President for Student Government

Ms. Padigela attend the UT System Student Advisory Council meeting on November 4-5, 2016. At the meeting she heard two of the Vice Chancellors speak on their initiatives, and worked with the Chancellor on his quantum leap initiatives. Ms. Padigela is on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee does not have any system level leadership, i.e. no office/organization or specified Vice-Chancellor. The committee has a list of questions pertaining to diversity and inclusion at each of the different institutions. Members will compare the answers to different universities across the country. They hope to improve the diversity and inclusion of not just the students but also faculty and staff.

Ms. Padigela is working on an aspect of one of the Chancellor’s quantum leaps, specifically the pillar of advising. They are sending through advising questions to all the directors of advising at each system institution. They hope to discover if more funding is needed in advising or if better programs are needed to allow for online advising. This would include not only academic advising but also career advising. A cover letter was sent to all of the provosts advising them of what UT-SAC is doing.

UT-Dallas Student Government (SG) is attempting to create a memorial for students, faculty, and staff who pass away during their time at the university. One suggestion is to have the rocks of the mall area fountain engraved with the “fallen comets” names. SG is also working on a video that would better define “consent.” The current flyers state it as a “sober, verbal yes”; however this is not the legal definition of “consent.” This has caused a great deal of confusion with the students. The video should relieve the confusion. In light of recent events at other universities SG will be making a statement regarding how the university is inclusive, and that all students are important. Lastly, SG is attempting to have a sundial placed on campus, identical to the one on the Texas Instruments campus. And they are attempting to create ‘President’s Park’, which is an amphitheater style outdoor events area. It will be located in the grove of trees to the west of the Administrative building. She opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

11. CEP Proposals- Clint Peinhardt

Clint Peinhardt reported that six Special Topics courses in Mechanical Engineering were approved by CEP on November 1, 2016. Clint Peinhardt made a motion on the behalf of CEP to approve six Special Topics courses in Mechanical Engineering. The motion carried.

12. Approval of Fall 2016 Graduates- David Cordell

David Cordell moved the following:

These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The Office of Records has declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon the completion of the current semester’s work at the necessary levels. I request, therefore, that the Faculty Senate certify these students to graduate upon receipt of
final grades, and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades are consistent with the standards for graduation prescribed by this University. I also request that the Faculty Senate certify those students designated as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of coursework and requirements consistent with the standards for honors at the levels offered by this University.

Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

David Cordell moved the following:

These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all of these students will be eligible for the degrees indicated upon satisfactory completion of the current semester’s work. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify these students to receive the degrees as indicated upon receipt of final grades and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades received are consistent with the standards for credit prescribed by this University.

Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

1. Meeting Date Changes for December 2016, and March 2017 - Tim Redman

Tim Redman recommended the following calendar items for Senate and Council:
- Cancel the December Senate meeting as per custom;
- Cancel the January Council meeting as per custom;
- Use the December Council meeting to set the January Senate agenda;
- Move the March 2017 Senate meeting back one week to March 22 to avoid spring break.

Richard Scotch moved to approve. Joe Izen seconded. The motion carried.

13. Presentation by the Task Force on Teaching Implications of Increased Enrollment – Paul Diehl

Inga Musselman and Provost Wildenthal directed the creation of a task force to address how the increased enrollment has affected the quality of teaching at the University. An example of the difficulties that the task force is concerned about is a program that has had a significant increase in enrollment, thus adds Saturday classes, doubles class size, and hires an adjunct professor to teach the class. This approach addresses the space considerations for room assignments and parking, but many areas have difficulty finding adjunct professors who are qualified and experienced. Larger class sizes require instructors to change the type of assignments they give, moving away from writing and critical thinking and toward more multiple choice tests. Larger classes also limit the type of teacher/student interactions. The increase in enrollment is not just a space issue. It is also critical for the quality of education. The charge of the task force is to address the teaching concerns with regard to the increased enrollment.

Dr. Diehl requested input from the Senate members on what the committee has done so far for the report. He shared a number of principles under which the task force is guided in its deliberations. It is the committee’s belief that these principles may be reflected in any changes in policy or practice that is used. He reminded that the wording has not been finalized.
1. Any changes should produce outcomes that are at least as effective, or ideally more effective, than the status quo in promoting student learning.

2. Any changes should reflect the long-term orientation and not merely be designed to address immediate problems, although some stop gap measures might be needed.

3. All students admitted to UTD should have courses available to graduate in normal time for their programs.

4. Any changes should reflect best practices that enhance student learning.

5. Space considerations should be regarded as constraints or facilitating conditions for instruction rather than primary challenges to be addressed.

6. The diversity of schools, programs, and associated instructional responsibilities add the differential impact of increase in enrollment means that one size does not fit all. Instructional responses to increased enrollment will need to be multi-faceted and vary across multiple levels, with those levels being campus, school, programs, and courses involved.

The Committee is not ready to share the recommendation but they looking at a variety of things and the report is very likely to include discussions of variety of options and responses to increased enrollment. These include the following:

- managing enrollment by assessing limits on certain majors,
- the viability of increasing class sizes of existing classes,
- the use of online and blended learning,
- scheduling kinds of issues and the use of additional space,
- classroom design issues for any new buildings we hope to have in the future,
- staffing issues such as when additional staff are hired and what are the different kinds of options available that range from tenure track faculty to contingent faculty to the use of graduate/undergraduate teaching assistants,
- implications of teaching for student services, anything from the office of accessibility to peer alerting program, including how those services support student learning and what increased enrollment means for those.

The timeline they envision is a draft report was circulated to the members of the committee. Comments were returned to Dr. Diehl. At the suggestion of the Academic Council he has met with four student leaders with one additional one following the Senate meeting. The plan is to take all the changes back to the committee for their meeting on December 1, 2016, and hopefully at that time they will have a draft file report approved. Then Dr. Diehl has a final meeting with Provost Wildenthal and Vice Provost Musselman to make sure the committee has addressed the concerns that were specified and to see if any additional points need to be addressed. If there are no further changes, the final report will be submitted to Provost Wildenthal to with the report as they wish. Should the Academic Senate wish the report presented to the Senate, it would be ready for the January Senate meeting, barring any major changes. He opened the floor to questions.

Joe Izen requested clarification if the university would retroactively fixing changes that were not in accordance with the principles that have already occurred to remediate. One of the conversation Dr. Diehl has had with the student leaders, particularly the graduate students, have made clear that some of the language in the report will be adjusted, so that illustrates that enrollment challenged are just in the future there are already issues, such as class size that are already suboptimal as a result of enrollment increase.
Murray Leaf inquired if it would be possible have an appendix on the report with additional supporting materials. Dr. Diehl noted that they do have copies of the surveys received from the program heads. Dr. Leaf felt it might assist the faculty in understanding the issues others are facing in their classrooms. Dr. Diehl noted some of the collected data is anecdotal. Dr. Leaf responded that that was not a concern. Speaker Redman said that the report must be brought back to the Senate upon completion for approval.

14. Revisions to UTDPP1039- President's Outstanding Teaching Awards Committee- Paul Diehl and Karen Huxtable-Jester
Inga Musselman and Provost Wildenthal requested the Center for Teaching and Learning to facilitate the nominations and selection process for a series of awards that range from UT System-wide awards, to the President's Outstanding Teaching Award (POTA). Previously the POTA was administered by the Office of Undergraduate Education. The process is being revised to include an improved nomination process and specification of both the required documentation and the composition of the selection committee. The Committee on Effective Teaching is working with the schools to encourage them to have teaching awards. The hope is that the awards would create a vertical progression for awards at the university. The agenda packet included a proposal for two new awards. These include graduate instruction, and innovation in online instruction. One of the major revisions that affects the Academic Senate is a major revision to UTDPP 1039, the charge of the President's Outstanding Teaching Award Committee. Richard Scotch moved to approve the revisions to UTDPP1039. Betsy Schlobohm seconded. The motion carried.

15. Academic Calendar for 2018 - Andrew Blanchard
Jennifer Holmes moved to approve the proposed academic calendar for 2018. Murray Leaf seconded. The floor was opened for discussion. Student Government came to an agreement with President Daniel many years ago to have spring break coincide with UT Austin’s. However, these dates do not match up with the local independent school districts (ISD). A concern was again raised of how the faculty could deal with having their own children off school, while the university was in session. Tonja Wssinger raised the question if it was possible to have university sponsored spring break camps to take burdens off the faculty/staff/ students. Ravi Prakash reminded the Senate that this a problem that should be addressed. Marion Underwood advised the Senate that the break is set well past the half way point in the semester. If it were moved one week earlier to coincide with the most frequent local ISD spring break, it would be more of a mid-point, which may or may not be better academically for the students. Serenity King reminded the Academic Senate that spring break cannot be moved for 2018 as it was specifically set for that date due to the SACS site visit. Richard Scotch noted that this gives the Senate a year to think about for the next cycle the committee could solicit some suggestions. It is a good idea to provide enhanced activities on campus for children and staff/ faculty/ students, and it could possibly be done in a revenue neutral way. Speaker Redman said that by tradition and practice, the timing of the break was the provenance of the Student Government and the President. The motion carried.

16. 2nd Vote on the Revisions to UTDPP1007 -Academic Senate Bylaws - Tim Redman
This is the second of two Senate voted to approve changes to the Academic Senate Bylaws. Serenity King requested amendments be made to the policy to updated to reflect the updated Regents Rule 20201. The amendments updated the Handbook of Operating Procedures policy approval process. The policy was further revised to be in compliance with current Academic Senate practices. William Heffley moved to approve the revisions to UTDPP 1007. Betsy Schlobohm seconded. The motion carried.
17. Revisions to UTDP1017-Campus Wellness Committee - Tim Redman
The committee charge was revised to reflect the current practices of the committee. The Student representatives were removed from the committee since there is a corresponding student committee. The members' terms were extended to two years, and additional experts were added to the committee as ex officio members. Murray Leaf moved to approve the revisions to UTDP1017. Thomas Brikowski seconded. The motion carried.

18. FY 16 Annual Committee Reports- David Cordell
Five of the seventeen Senate Committee reports have not been submitted, and eleven of the seventeen University Committee reports have not been submitted. David Cordell moved to approve the submitted committee reports. Betsy Schlubohm seconded. The motion carried.

19. Replace Committee Appointments- Tim Redman
Barbara Morgan was recommended to replace Lisa Bell as a member of the University Assessment Committee. Tae Hoon Kim was recommended to replace Lee Bulla as member of the Institutional Biosafety & Chemical Safety Committee. William Hefley moved to approve the appointment recommendations. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

20. Adjournment
There being no further business, Richard Benson adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.

APPROVED: [Signature]

Tim Redman
Speaker of the Faculty

DATE: 12-05-17