



Academic Governance

The University of Texas at Dallas

800 West Campbell Road, AD 23, Richardson, TX 75080-3021
(972) 883-6715 FAX (972) 883-2276

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 2010

TO: Academic Council*

COPY TO: **David Daniel**
Hobson Wildenthal
Andrew Blanchard
Calvin Jamison
John Wiorkowski
Brian Berry
Michael Coleman
Austin Cunningham
George Fair
Serenity King
Abby Kratz
Dennis Kratz
James Marquart
Bert Moore
Hasan Pirkul
Myron Salamon
Mark Spong

FROM: Office of Academic Governance
Vicki Carlisle, Academic Governance Secretary

SUBJECT: Academic Council Meeting

The Academic Council will meet on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Osborne Conference Room (**ECS South 3.503**). Please bring the agenda packet with you to the meeting. If you cannot attend, please notify me at vicki.carlisle@utdallas.edu or x6751.

Attachments

2009-2010 Academic Council

Beron, Kurt

Kao, Diana – Student Government President

Cantrell, Cyrus

Cordell, David **

Huxtable-Jester, Karen

Kieschnick, Robert

Leaf, Murray *

Miller, Dennis

Redman, Timothy

*Speaker

**Secretary



Academic Governance

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AGENDA

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING March 3, 2010

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS & QUESTIONS | DR. DANIEL |
| 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA | DR. LEAF |
| 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
February 3, 2010 Meeting | DR. LEAF |
| 4. SPEAKER'S REPORT | DR. LEAF |
| 5. FAC REPORT | DR. LEAF |
| 6. TEXAS COUNCIL ON FACULTY SENATES | DR. LEAF |
| 7. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY | SERENITY KING |
| 8. MEMBERSHIP - SENATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY
BUDGET | DR. LEAF |
| 9. CONTINUITY AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY | DR. REDMAN |
| 10. CEP REPORT | DR. CANTRELL |
| 11. STATUS OF SENATE ELECTION | DR. CORDELL |
| 12. ADJOURNMENT | DR. DANIEL |

UNAPPROVED AND UNCORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Council. They have not been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are not official minutes.

Academic Council Meeting
February 3, 2010

PRESENT: Cy Cantrell, Tim Redman, Murray Leaf, Karen Huxtable-Jester, R. Chandrasekaran
David Cordell

VISITORS: Serenity King, Andrew Blanchard, Hobson Wildenthal, Diana Kao David Daniel, Mary
Jane Hurst

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS & QUESTIONS

Dr. Wildenthal called the meeting to order. The Council, Dr. Wildenthal, and President Daniel mainly discussed the change in deadline for submitting the strategic plans for the emerging research university initiative to the System, and the plan itself. As a related matter, President Daniel asked the Council to place on the Senate agenda a discussion of the university's response to the state leadership request for a plan for a 5% budget cut. The Council agreed to place this on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Cy Cantrell moved to approve the agenda as circulated. Dr. Tim Redman seconded. The motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Cantrell moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting as circulated. Dr. Redman seconded. The motion carried.

4. SPEAKER'S REPORT—DR. LEAF

1. Elimination of the Apply Texas Form from the Graduate Admissions website

Curt Ely, VP for Enrollment Management, has asked if the governance organization agrees to take the Apply Texas form off of our graduate admissions website. This raised the question of who should respond. Professor Cantrell felt that action of the full Senate was more than was required. After discussion, Speaker Leaf concurred. Since the initiative came from the Graduate Council and since the Senate has already, on several occasions, expressed its dissatisfaction with the Apply Texas form, his view was that the ad hoc liaison committee for the Senate on the graduate website and the Graduate Dean (speaking for the Graduate Council) could approve the action. They have approved, and the Apply Texas form is either being removed or already has been removed.

In the past, Mr. Ely had been concerned that it might be helpful as an alternate channel for potential students who do not find our own form. He has now done an analysis of the applications, and this turns out not to be the case. Only three applicants came through the Apply Texas form, and even in those cases it does not appear to have been necessary. On other hand, duplicate applications are a potential source of confusion and it is time-consuming to check for them.

2. Policy on Notifications of Closings for inclement weather

The HOP committee has considered whether revisions to the UTD policy on notifications for inclement weather should go to the Senate for approval. The Senate had been involved in setting up the present policy, about eleven years ago. Since the modified policy keeps the same timeline—that decisions should be made no later than 6 am—Speaker Leaf decided that Senate approval was not required. The amendments simply reflect changes in technology since the original policy was settled.

Other policies considered by the HOP committee concerned a requirement for student vaccinations for bacterial meningitis and actions to promote sustainability. The former was a state requirement, the latter is a system initiative that the faculty would certainly support, but which did not actually impinge on academic policy. Serenity King added that the policy on sustainability has now been withdrawn.

Finally, the HOP committee has developed a standard template for policies, and the Provost's office has rewritten most policies to fit it. These include academic policies, originating in the Senate. Speaker Leaf said we will want to review all of them. The template was also supposed to include charges to committees. Since committee charges require different elements, Speaker Leaf believes this format is inappropriate, and has offered to provide an alternative model. The charge for the proposed Advisory Committee on the Budget, on the agenda for today, follows this model.

Other items are on the agenda.

5. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT—DR. LEAF

The FAC met last Thursday and Friday, January 28 and 29. The matters of primary interest to UTD were as follows:

1. Exigency policy

The FAC met with Dan Sharphorn and Dr. Pedro Reyes of the Chancellors Task Force to rewrite the exigency policy in Regent's Rules. The FAC Governance Committee and Health Committee subsequently met together to review the discussion of the campus templates that had been agreed to at the previous FAC meeting. They then reported the results of their discussion to the full FAC at the close of the FAC meeting. The report said:

“Although several of the medical campuses had begun to discuss a campus policy, as agreed at the last meeting, none had actually developed one. All had decided to wait until the new Regents Rule policy came out. As per the discussions in the FAC earlier in the day, however, they agreed that they would now go ahead with their discussions, bearing in mind the main points that seem likely to be included in the new policy:

1. The process would have four stages (declaration of exigency, governance involvement in deciding how to respond, appointing committees to implement the response, and appeals).
2. The process would be transparent. Transparency at all stages will be assured by written decisions and reports.
3. The definition of affected faculty would be full-time faculty with ongoing contractual commitments (including tenured appointments).

4. Exigency would be defined financially and apply to the entire institution (the policy was not for considerations of closing a specific program—this would come under the Regents Rules for closure for academic reasons).
5. Governance organization means the elected representative body that speaks for the faculty, called the Senate on most campuses.
6. Each campus would be required to write its own policy implementing the Rules. This would concretize such matters as the definition of faculty, the relationship between exigency decisions and the campus mission, the definition of that mission, sizes and memberships of committees, and types of records to be made. (The governance organization would have a major role in this process.)”

On the basis of the discussions on the campuses as far as they had gone, everyone present felt that their campus policy would fairly closely follow the two templates, and they did not see anything in the discussion of Regent’s Rules that would be problematic.

We therefore agreed that the discussions of the campuses would now be resumed to get the policies into a form that faculty would tentatively approve. Meanwhile, the Task Force would go ahead and finalize its draft, which Dr. Reyes will circulate. If the campuses see any problems in consistency between the Rules draft and their proposed policy they should notify the appropriate representatives on the FAC. If there were no problems, it would helpful to share that information as well. Dr. Reyes is hoping to have the Regent’s policy ready for the Regent’s August meeting.”

The FAC accepted the report without modification. The campuses will continue discussing the templates, and await the draft from the Task Force on Regent’s Rules.

2. The new UTSA policy regarding the ownership of research data was briefly discussed. The UTSA policy appears to say that all research data and all course materials developed by faculty while in UTSA employment are owned by UTSA, regardless of funding source or contractual arrangements. Among other things, faculty need permission to take it with them if they end their employment with UTSA. The consensus was that there was no effort to impose such a problematic policy on other campuses. Faculty research data are owned by faculty or as specified in contracts or grants that the faculty member and the university have agreed to.

In the meantime, however, since the definition of “data” has been an ongoing problem in the UT System because of the overreaching of Business Affairs in providing for security of their own records, two FAC members (Murray Leaf (UTD) and Amy Jasperson (UTSA)) will do a search to see if there may already be a standardized statement or definition of research data that could be used or referred to in order to address the problem.

3. Dr. Paredes, Executive Director of the Coordinating Board, met with the FAC. The main topic of discussion was the National Research Initiative. Dr. Paredes stressed the importance of providing high-quality programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. This includes moving away from open admissions. Another topic was the increasing emphasis on “access” as meaning increased support for community colleges and increased access to for-profit programs. The FAC was concerned about the effect of aggressive marketing of for-profit programs, in which students are led to sign up for federally sponsored loan programs to pay the costs and left with very high debt loads. Dr. Paredes responded that the CB is monitoring this activity both for quality and for financial impact.

4. The FAC also met with Regent Longoria, now chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. There was discussion of a more active and consistent presence of a FAC representative at the Regents' meetings. The FAC agreed to pursue this.

6. DRAFT - STRATEGIC PLAN FOR COORDINATING BOARD

The deadline for submitting the plan to System has been moved to March 19. But since the March meeting of the Senate would fall in Spring Break, and we have agreed that if a Senate meeting is needed it will be after the break, the Council and President Daniel agreed that we should discuss it at the February meeting. We will receive a revised draft of the plan by February 10, to be placed on the Senate agenda. Dr. Redman moved to place it on the agenda. Dr. Cantrell seconded. The motion carried.

7. FACULTY FITNESS FOR DUTY POLICY

The Senate has referred this back to committee, and the revised text has not been received. In view of the issues raised in the Senate meeting, the Council declined to place this on the Senate agenda without first seeing the draft. Accordingly, Speaker Leaf will ask Professor Richard Scotch if the revised text will be available soon to circulate to the Council to review for inclusion in the agenda

8. DRAFT - CHARGE FOR SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council suggested several amendments to the charge as circulated but did not establish a final text. Dr. Redman moved to place the charge on the Senate agenda pending incorporation of the amendments. Dr. Cantrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. GRADUATE CATALOG RULES FOR REPEATING COURSES

Several changes were made to the proposed rule as written to clean up grammatical errors and clarify wording. Dr. Cantrell made a motion to place the item on the agenda with the proposed changes. Dr. Chandrasekaran seconded. The motion carried as amended.

10. Dr. Leaf was asked if he had a report from the Scholarship Committee and specifically Liz Salter's position on the committee. Dr. Leaf has not followed up with Dr. Salter since returning from the winter break, but he will do so.

11. FEBRUARY SENATE AGENDA

The Council did not make a separate motion to approve the Senate agenda. The agenda as agreed to in the several items was:

1. Discussion of UTD response to state leadership request for plan to cut the university budget by an amount equal to 5% of the general revenue appropriation.
2. Discussion President Daniel's draft strategic plan for the emerging research university initiative.
3. Graduate catalog policy on repeating courses.
4. Faculty fitness for duty policy if approved by Council for inclusion.
5. Charge to Senate Budget Advisory Committee.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Daniel adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Senate

The University of Texas at Dallas Sustainability Policy

Policy

The University of Texas at Dallas aspires to be one of the nation's best public research universities focused on research and education in emerging areas of technology, science, and learning. This includes excellence in advancing environmental stewardship and sustainability on our campus, in our academic and research programs, and in our public service and outreach activities. Efficient energy use is central to this objective and energy-conservation efforts provide a means to save money, foster environmental awareness, reduce the environmental consequences of University activities, and provide educational leadership for the 21st century.

To accomplish this goal, the University shall establish procedures to consider conservation of utilities' use and sustainability in the design and operation of University facilities in the most economical and environmentally friendly manner possible, educate the University community on sustainability measures, and consider conservation in purchasing decisions and transportation. Our decisions and actions will be guided by the University's Sustainability Policy day to day.

Rationale

This policy promotes efforts to support initiatives that increase efficiency, reduce emissions, promote sustainability and contribute meaningfully to the environment, while achieving the mission of the University.

Scope

This policy applies to the University main campus and other University-owned facilities in the Dallas Metroplex.

Definition

Sustainability refers to societal efforts that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is accomplished through teaching, research, service, and administrative efforts that benefit our various communities.

Implementation

Education:

The University will integrate the Sustainability Policy in educating faculty, staff, and students, promote the development and expansion of sustainability related research and curriculum, support sustainability related service and learning opportunities on and off campus, and encourage sustainability themed programming opportunities and events.

Campus Operations:

In campus planning, operations and activities, the University will use resources in a manner that takes into consideration environmental, social and economic impacts. The University will seek to integrate sustainability considerations into all business decisions including but not limited to:

- Energy management
- Procurement
- Materials and resource management
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance
- Transportation
- Dining
- Building construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance

Community Engagement:

The University will seek to establish partnerships with government, business and community organizations that strive to foster environmental consciousness and lead to the betterment of our campus and surrounding communities, encourage research by faculty that benefits the local community, share experiences and provide outreach to the community wherever feasible, increase awareness and inform the community on sustainability related issues

Establishment of a UT Dallas Sustainability Committee

UT Dallas' Sustainability Committee's mission is to foster a culture of environmental responsibility in which the entire UTD community is aware of, engaged in and committed to advancing environmental awareness and sustainable practices through education, research, operations, and community service activities.

ITEM #7

The University sustainability Committee's purpose is to bring together stakeholders who will champion the University's efforts of promoting environmental awareness and sustainability throughout our campus community. The Committee will develop and recommend to the President short, mid, and long term sustainability measures which can be implemented within budgetary, legal, regulatory and programmatic constraints. All recommendations will be evaluated on a Life Cycle Cost Basis.

The Committee members will consist of the following seven representatives:

Chair

Tenured faculty, preferably one actively engaged in academic pursuit of sustainability curriculum or research

Two Faculty Members

One from NS&M or Engineering (alternating)

One from EPPS or Business or Arts & Humanities (alternating)

Two Staff

Assistant Director of Procurement

Representative of Staff Council

Two Student Members

One from the Office of Student Government

One from a student group/club supportive of sustainability initiatives

Ex Officio Members

Vice President of Business Affairs

Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management

Energy Conservation and Sustainability Manager

Assistant Vice President of Communications