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  
February 17, 2010

PRESENT: Kurt Beron, Gail Breen, John Burr, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Greg Dieckmann, Kelly Durbin John Hoffman, Jennifer Holmes, Karen Huxtable-Jester, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Marilyn Kaplan, Robert Kieschnick, Murray Leaf, Dennis Miller, Simeon Ntaos, Tim Redman, Mark Rosen, Richard Scotch, Lucien Thompson, Tonja Wissingen

ABSENT: Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Piñeres, Mark Anderson, Titu Andreescu, Dinesh Bhatia, Denise Boots, Cyrus Cantrell, Jay Dowling, Shayla Holub, Joe Izen, Nanda Kumar, Syam Menon, B.P.S. Murthi, Steven Nielson, Ravi Prakash, Young Ryu, Chelliah Sriskandanrajah, Robert Stern

VISITORS: Andrew Blanchard, Daniel Calhoun, Diana Kao, Serenity King, Chris Parr

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS
Associate Provost Andrew Blanchard called the meeting to order. There were no announcements or questions, and Dr. Blanchard turned the meeting over to Speaker Leaf.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Dr. Leaf noted that there was an additional item to be added to the agenda – (Item 12 – Name Judy Barnes as Chair of Commencement Committee replacing Judy Hensley.) Dr. Richard Scotch made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Kurt Beron seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Speaker Leaf called for corrections to the minutes as circulated. There were no corrections. Tim Redman made a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

4. SPEAKER’S REPORT
1. Elimination of the Apply Texas Form from the Graduate Admissions website
Speaker Leaf noted that the Apply Texas form has been eliminated from the graduate application website. Curt Ely, VP for Enrollment Management, had previously felt that the Apply Texas application 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 about three applicants came through the Apply Texas form alone and there is a substantial problem with applications coming in through both forms, apparently on the theory that this increases the applicant’s chances. The
duplicate applications are a potential source of confusion and it is time-consuming to check for them.

Mr. Ely wanted governance approval before removing the application, and this raised the question of who should respond. Speaker Leaf had thought the Senate could respond. Professor Cantrell felt that action of the full Senate was more than was required. After discussion, Speaker Leaf concurred. Since the Senate has already, on several occasions, expressed its dissatisfaction with the Apply Texas form, his view was that Cy Cantrell, as Chair of the ad hoc liaison committee for the Senate on the graduate website and Austin Cunningham, Chair of the Graduate Council, could speak for the Senate on this matter. They have approved, and the Apply Texas form has now been removed.

2. Policy on Notifications of Closings for Inclement Weather
At its last meeting the HOP committee 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 a.m. — Speaker Leaf decided that Senate approval was not required. The amendments simply reflect changes in technology since the original policy was settled. It was noted that this was implemented last week with the weather-related closings.

3. HOP Committee Template for Policies
The HOP committee has developed a standard template to be used for all policies, which would include academic policies originating in the Senate. Speaker Leaf has requested that the Academic Council be allowed to review all policies as they are rewritten on the new templates to ensure there are no resulting substantive changes. The template was also supposed to apply to charges to committees as well. Since committee charges require different elements, it was the opinion of Speaker Leaf that this format would be inappropriate and he offered to provide an alternative model. The charge for the proposed Advisory Committee on the Budget, on the agenda for today, follows the model that Dr. Leaf has written.

4. Learning Management Systems Committee
The Learning Management Systems Committee is beginning to work with two UTD students who are trying to develop some educational software. The software would combine two things that both the UTD Senate and the System Faculty Advisory Council have been involved in. One is what has always referred to as the “dating service” allowing faculty to link up with other faculty and graduate students for research interests and the other is course preparation. In this new software, these would be combined with a web crawler to look at other courses that are being taught on an algorithm that makes them seem the same. The students have asked for FAC endorsement, which has been given. Dr. Leaf has asked the Learning Management Systems Committee to work with them in developing this software and our campus will be working with them to test and develop this software. Once the software is tested faculty should contact Dinesh Bhatia, Chair of the LMS committee with feedback.
5. Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Piñeres Resignation
Dr. Leaf announced that Dr. Piñeres has been named acting Dean of libraries and as such feels that she should resign from the Senate. There are no reserve members at this time, so her position will remain unfilled.

5. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT
Speaker Leaf outlined the highlights of the FAC meeting in January. One of the first items of business was a meeting with Dan Sharp Horn and Dr. Pedro Reyes of the Chancellors Task Force rewriting Regent’s Rules on exigency. The rules as currently written do not apply to medical campuses, so the challenge was to determine wording that can accommodate both. The Exigency Committee has agreed to a position taken by the Faculty Advisory Council assuring transparency, a written policy, and governance involvement in a crucial way throughout the process. The agreed upon policy is essentially consistent with the exigency policy we have adopted for our campus, which the FAC has adopted as their template. This will be adjusted to fit both types of campuses and the Exigency Committee has agreed on a final draft that is currently being reviewed. Speaker Leaf feels that the policy is strong, fair and consistent with our campus policy.

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.

The FAC also had the opportunity to meet with Regent Longoria, Chair of the Regent’s Academic Affairs Committee. They are discussing the possibility of having a more permanent faculty presence on the Board of Regents. This would be not a formal regent but a representative of the FAC that would serve in a type of consultancy capacity for the regents.

6. STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON REPORT
Marilyn Kaplan, Senate Liaison to Student Government, noted that the Student Government is putting together a task force on textbook pricing. They have concluded that they would like to have some faculty members to consult with but not to serve as permanent members of the task force. Dr. Kaplan asked that anyone willing to serve in
this capacity contact her and she would pass the information along to the appropriate Student Government representatives. The question of why students wanted a faculty representative was raised. Diana Kao, Student Government President, answered that the students felt it would be beneficial to have faculty input on the process of ordering textbooks and what type of information professors received from publishers prior to determining which books would be used.

7. **DRAFT – STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CB RESEARCH INITIATIVE**
The draft of the strategic plan was sent electronically to Senate members separately from the Agenda packet. None of those present had recognized that the email sent to them with the document was to be read for discussion at the meeting. This made a thorough discussion of the plan impossible. Dr. Wildenthal stated that the plan is consistent with the strategic plan that the governance system organized shortly after President Daniel began his term of office. Speaker Leaf read the executive summary from the plan. After discussion of the general points, Tim Redman made a motion to authorize an email vote to approve the draft of the strategic plan with a deadline for ballots to be returned on March 5. Richard Scotch seconded. The deadline for votes to be received by Senate Secretary is March 5, 2010. It was also noted that the vote must total a quorum in order to approve the draft. Speaker Leaf will draft an email message to be resent along with an electronic copy of the draft document.

8. **DISCUSSION OF UTD RESPONSE TO STATE LEADERSHIP REQUEST FOR UNIVERSITY BUDGET CUTS**
Dr. Wildenthal noted that since this item was placed on the agenda the cut is now higher than originally thought. It is now a request for a full 5% cut. This will result in UTD losing $7 million in available funds. Our plan is to address this by cutting travel expenses and realigning faculty positions. Additionally, there will be a push to be more effective in our operations. It was agreed that there was no action needed by the Senate.

9. **GRADUATE CATALOG POLICY ON REPEATING COURSES**
Tim Redman made a motion to accept the wording as distributed. Kurt Beron seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

10. **FACULTY FITNESS FOR DUTY POLICY**
Dr. Richard Scotch noted that this was presented at the last Senate meeting. There were some significant concerns with the policy at that time. Dr. Scotch reviewed that changes that had been made to the policy. Dr. Scotch made a motion to accept the policy as amended. Jennifer Holmes seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

11. **CHARGE TO SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Dr. Murray Leaf
Motion to approve charge tim
J holmes 2nd
Discussion on format
Motion carries

Next step is to appoint committee
12. **NAME REPLACEMENT TO CHAIR OF COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE**
   Richard Scotch made a motion to name Judy Barnes, Director of University Events, as Chair of the Commencement Committee replacing Judy Hensley, who has retired. Jennifer Holmes seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** asked if there were further matters to discuss. There being none, he called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wildenthal adjourned made the motion. Dr. seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at p.m.

**APPROVED:**  
Murray J. Leaf  
Speaker of the Academic Senate

**DATE:** 31 Mar 2010