APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

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

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2012

PRESENT: David Daniel, Hobson Wildenthal, Poras Balsara, Kurt Beron, John Burr, Cy Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Gregg Dieckmann, John Ferguson, Lev Gelb, Warren Goux, Jennifer Holmes, Joe Izen, Kamran Kiasaleh, Murray Leaf, Nicole Leeper Piquero, Dennis Miller, Jessica Murphy, Ramachandran Natarajan, Ravi Prakash, Monica Rankin, Tim Redman, Richard Scotch, Zhenyu Xuan


VISITORS: Andrew Blanchard, Calvin Jamison, Abby Kratz, Rochelle Peña, Sheila Pineres, Raj Dwivedi

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS
President Daniel called the meeting to order. Currently we are in the fundraising season. He is working on information for the upcoming legislative session. He hopes to see an increase in resources based on our increased enrollment.

In Austin on October 22nd the Regents will be signing the MOOC (Massively Open Online Courses) agreement with edX. edX is a not-for-profit enterprise founded by Harvard University and MIT that develops learning designed for interactive study via the web. This agreement does not commit us to anything in the future. It does not require us to do anything with the edX courses, and does not affect any current agreements for online courses. However, it does constrain us if we choose to offer MOOC's for courses from our own faculty. We are obligated to do that through edX for the next three years. It is a real opportunity for the Senate and the Provost's office to take a serious look at what courses we want to provide and what to do about our own students who want to take these courses and use them as credit toward their degree.

Greg Dess asked if this would affect the amount of our funding in any way. He asked what kind of controls would be in place regarding grade inflation at some of the other institutions, and how many courses will students are allowed to take. President Daniel responded that it is possible to make students register for the course, pay full tuition for the course, and take tests; however it would still be our responsibility to certify that the student has mastered the information taken through these online courses.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Speaker Leaf asked to change the agenda to add a discussion regarding the Academic Calendar after Item 9; that a presentation by Dr. Jamison- "The Transformation Continues"- be added, as well as the CQ report to be expanded. Tim Redman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Cy Cantrell seconded. The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **Residential Camps and Conference Services Presentation**

Pam McElrath, Associate Director of Residential Life, gave a brief presentation on the facilities available on campus for hosting conferences and camps during the summer months, May 20-August 10. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

4. **Campus Infrastructure & Service Update: "The Transformation Continues"**

Calvin Jamison, Vice President of Administration, presented a PowerPoint presentation on changes and updates to the campus. A copy of the slides is included.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Speaker Murray Leaf moved to make a change in the Speakers report. Part of the information included was regarding the October meeting, and not the September meeting. Cy Cantrell moved to approve the amendment. Greg Dess seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

6. **Speaker's Report – Murray Leaf**

1. School bylaws guidelines. The Academic Council set up a working group to fill out details of the revised guidelines for school bylaws. The working group brought the list of changes to make back to the Academic Council for evaluation in the October 3 meeting. At that point, the question was to bring the proposed changes to the full Senate for discussion or go ahead and incorporate them as amendments to the current text and bring that to the Senate. The Council approved the list and decided it would be best to go ahead and create the amended version of the current document. We will involve the Deans in the discussion as we do this. It should come to the Senate early in the Spring term, 2013.

2. Steven Mintz, the newly appointed director of the UT System’s Institute for Transformational Learning, will be on campus tomorrow, October 18, for the afternoon. The Institute for Transformational Learning is what has been set up with the $50 Mn allocation of the Board of Regents to assist in the development of online, hybrid, and digitally enhanced classroom instruction. He spoke with the Faculty Advisory Council at its meeting on September 21, as I describe in the FAC report. In general, his ideas were well received. I had hoped to have him meet the Senate, but evidently his schedule did not permit it. President Daniel’s office is arranging a meeting with the chairs of the committees on Distance Learning, Learning Management Systems, and Teaching Effectiveness, and perhaps others they suggest—as one meeting of several while he is here.

3. The Budget Advisory Committee is now considering the problem of faculty salary compression and inversion. Their first problem is to define it, in some meaningful way or ways that can be tested statistically. They are working from salary data provided by the administration. Our salaries have also been posted in the Texas Tribune, last updated Feb 6, 2012. The url is [http://www.texastribune.org/library/data/government-employee-salaries/the-university-of-texas-at-dallas/](http://www.texastribune.org/library/data/government-employee-salaries/the-university-of-texas-at-dallas/). The two lists do not seem to match; the Tribune salaries seem
high. I asked Dr. Daniel about this; his response was that the Tribune salaries were for twelve months.

4. Our new Annual Review Policy has gone forward for System approval. Meanwhile, the schools need to know what do for this year. I have advised that we circulate the revised policy without waiting for approval. The Academic Council agrees. There are two main reasons. The first is that it is substantially what we have been doing already. Second, until it goes into effect the status quo ante has to be presumed to prevail, and the status quo ante has been that we did not have a policy but rather a procedure issued by the Provost. I have, therefore, asked the Provost to circulate the new policy on the same authority, and he has agreed to do so. So all of your schools should have received it and you should be working to implement it. This means that if you want to have further specifications of the standards for evaluation, you should be forming a faculty or faculty/administration body to begin writing them.

5. The charge for the Information Security Committee has also gone to System for approval. The HOP committee strongly suggested an editorial revision that I agreed to. The amendment was to take a long qualifying phrase out the first sentence in the paragraph describing the general charge and make the first bulleted example of what the general charge entails.

The phrase was: “in planning and testing measures to provide security for the University for development and use of the university’s information resources in such a way as to comply with UT System security requirements for university information while not asserting undue claims to own or access information owned by faculty or for which faculty are under obligation to other organizations.”

The bulleted statement is: “To plan and test measures to provide security for the University for development and use of the university’s information resources in such a way as to comply with UT System security requirements for university information while not asserting undue claims to own or access information owned by faculty or for which faculty are under obligation to other organizations.

Since this did not seem to involve any substantive change in what the committee will actually do, I agreed that the amendment should go ahead and did not need to come back to the Senate.

6. Vicki Carlisle’s duties in the Provost’s office have been reconfigured to concentrate on faculty personnel review processes. The governance secretary position, correspondingly, will be shifted to include also working for Abby Kratz who chairs the HOP committee and handles liaison with OGC and Jim Marquart who will be working on academic program reviews. This makes a logical and relatively synergistic package, and Vicki will still be available for backup and guidance. We are now interviewing applicants.

7. Everything else is on the agenda.

At this point in the meeting Jessica Murphy called the Speaker’s attention to the fact that because of the length of the meeting some members were beginning to leave and there may not be a quorum remaining for those items remaining to be voted on. Speaker Leaf moved to table the FAC report and continue with it after the remainder of the business on the agenda was completed. Jessica Murphy seconded. The motion was approved. The remaining items of business on the agenda were discussed and Speaker Leaf resumed his report.

7. FAC REPORT – MURRAY LEAF
It was a busy meeting.

The items on the agenda, with major outcomes were:

**Thursday, September 20**

Introductions and Review of August BOR Meeting. This included a review by me to bring new members up to date on the FAC’s evolution, which was appreciated.

Steven Mintz, Executive Director of the Institute for Transformational Learning. Mintz discussed his conception of what the program can do. The basic idea was not to supplant the classroom activity but to make it more effective, for example by moving some of the instruction that could be automated to the online environment, so class activity could focus more on discussion and interaction. We also discussed the possibility of putting together a UT group to develop and open source replacement for Elearning.

Lewis Watkins, Chief Information Security Officer and Barbara Holthaus, Senior Attorney and System Privacy Coordinator. It appears that Ms. Holthaus was the author of the paragraph in the letter from Dr. Reyes that claims that the university owns everything we produce in our capacity as faculty of the university. We had a rather lively discussion, in which my own assessment was that the faculty turned out to be more knowledgeable of the law than Ms. Holthaus expected, and Ms. Holthaus’ position appeared a good deal more shaky than she had perhaps realized. The opinion of the FAC was that there was considerable scope for improving the way the legitimate claims of the university were described and set off from the legitimate claims of the faculty.

Discussion included the use of encrypted usb memory devices. In the course of discussing their use, Mr. Watkins took the position that it would satisfy UT security concerns if all sensitive university information were kept on such devices, rather than on personal laptops. He said that there was no need to worry about encrypting personal laptops and the like that were used to access university emails and do other work that left transient files. These were not important enough to justify requiring that such computers themselves should be encrypted.

Tim Allen and Wanda Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs – FAC/SAC Taskforce – Hazing and Alcohol. This is mainly a concern on other campuses.

**FRIDAY**

Commissioner Raymund Paredes, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We had a long discussion of the CB’s new standards for “low producing programs.” It is clear that Dr. Paredes feels that declining state support will necessitate the consolidation of programs. He recognizes that this will reduce access. There may be some scope for working the Board to provide better recognition and support for programs with a large service role. We will try.

Representative Tryon D. Lewis from Midland Odessa gave an encouraging presentation, but again held out little prospect for more financial support apart from what we could expect from the improved state financial situation.

Pedro Reyes, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dan Sharporn, Assoc. Vice Chancellor and Deputy General Counsel met with the FAC over lunch for a general discussion. We spent considerable time on the encryption policy issues and the Conflict of Interest policy. As indicated the notes I have circulated separately, we agreed that:
1. The central problem with the Conflict of Interest template is with the requirement that the campuses policies all be "at least as stringent as" the PHS requirements.

2. To deal with 1, it is essential to extract and clarify what the PHS means by "research" and by "data" in contrast to other meanings that are more relevant to the academic campuses. Then we can show how alternative proposed policies are "as stringent" given the differences between fields. I think what we are saying is that "as stringent" has to be interpreted in terms of analogs in different fields, rather than transposing absolute rules to different fields. Putting the same point a different way, we need to show how the PHS conceptions of research, of data, and interests create confusion when applied to the kinds of research that the PHS does not recognize as research.

3. Also, we need to show how kinds of conflicts of interest the PHS are concerned with (where large amounts of money can be at stake) are not the sort of thing one finds in most other scholarly fields, where financial stakes are often nebulous, minimal, or very distant. Essentially much of scholarship produces public goods, not goods that can be controlled for private profit.

We will also set up working group to provide better regulation and support for the base level administrators on the UT campuses, and more transparency.

The FAC passed a resolution like the UTD resolution recommending that faculty be advised of software installed on their computers during encryption that could be used to read or erase their files remotely.

All in all, it should be a busy year.

8. **STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON REPORT**
   Raj Dwivedi, Student Government President, had to leave early. The report was read by Secretary David Cordell.

   The Student Government had their annual textbook swap event called the Comet Textswap. The students were able to exchange their old textbooks for new ones. They organized town calls where students were able to voice their concerns and suggestions to their respective faculty members. They organized multiple voter registration drives, and provided a shuttle to aid students in voting during the early voting period. They have recently updated their website and are currently looking to increase their outreach by consistently holding surveys trying to gauge the opinions on various student issues. They are creating a body called “Friends of the Senate”, which will give students the opportunity to be more involved and closer to the senate. They are working on their homecoming event which will be a Tailgate. Currently they are investigating various issues that students are facing, such as a lack of dining options on weekends and late night. They will keep the Senate updated as they progress.

9. **APPROVAL OF 2013-2014 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**
   Greg Dess moved to approve the calendar. Jessica Murphy seconded. The motion carried.

10. **RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT- UTDPP1077**
    Tim Redman moved to approve the Amendment. Cy Cantrell proposes an amendment – the Faculty Personnel Review Committee (FPRC) should be elected by tenure-system faculty. The
proposal was changed so that the FPRC could be elected by mail ballot instead of requiring a faculty meeting for the election. Tim Redman moved to table the discussion and referred this item back to Academic Council. Jessica Murphy seconded. The motion carried and this item will be discussed further by the Council.

9 EXPANDED CQ REPORT

Tim Redman moved to accept CQ report. Cy Cantrell seconded. The report was accepted.

There being no further business, President Daniel adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:  
Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Academic Senate

DATE: 8 Dec 2012