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
September 16, 2009

PRESENT: Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Piñeres, Mark Anderson, Kurt Beron, Gail Breen, Cyrus Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Gregg Dieckmann, Kelly Durbin, Karen Huxtable-Jester, Joe Izen, Marilyn Kaplan, Murray Leaf, Steven Nielsen, Simeon Ntafos, Tim Redman, Mark Rosen, Young Ryu, Richard Scotch, Chelliah Sriskandarajah, Lucien Thompson, Tonja Wissinger

ABSENT: Titu Andreescu, Dinesh Bhatia, Denise Boots, John Burr, Jay Dowling, John Hoffman, Jennifer Holmes, Shayla Holub, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Nanda Kumar, Syam Menon, Dennis Miller, B.P.S. Murthi, Ravi Prakash, Robert Stern, David Daniel, Hobson Wildenthal, Andrew Blanchard, Inga Musselman, Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Diana Kao, Travis Keshvari, Chris Parr,

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Daniel called the meeting to order. He has two points of good news. We have expanded our tenure/tenure-track faculty headcount up by about twenty-three new faculty; five additional new faculty will begin in January. This is a six percent growth, with growth in enrollment at about three percent. Expanding faculty and research has been a key objective. Dr. Daniel complimented the Provost and the Deans on hiring such outstanding faculty. Our diversity factors have improved. We have hired an African American and a Hispanic faculty member, Dr. Daniel hopes this trend will continue.

UT Dallas has kicked off the September 1st Stampede, bringing in nearly $17 million dollars with matching funding bringing that total to close to $34 million. The funds will be used to hire chaired faculty, for research and student fellowships. Some of the funds are discretionary which gives us some freedom.

Dr. Daniel introduced Dr. Mary Jane Hurst, an ACE fellow. She is from Texas Tech. She will be working with Dr. Abby Kratz, working on best practices.

Dr. Daniel discussed the use of the matching funds. Our gifts should be fully matched based on the criteria. The program has generated interest among other donors.

Dr. Daniel welcomed everyone back to the 2009-2010 Academic Senate.
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Leaf asked for approval of the agenda for the September 16, 2009, Senate meeting.

Dr. Cantrell made the motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Scotch seconded the motion. The agenda for the September 16, 2009, meeting was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Leaf asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

Dr. Cantrell made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2009, meeting as circulated. Dr. Redman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. SPEAKER’S REPORT

A. Robert Kieschnick has resigned from the Academic Council and Senate. He is the area coordinator for the finance and managerial economics group. As such, he often has to fill in when a faculty person cannot meet their teaching commitment. This semester, he has been unable to find a replacement for someone that was to teach a required course that is scheduled from 1:30 to 4:15pm on Wednesdays. Professor Chandrasekharan is our alternate, and has agreed to take up the position.

B. We are compiling a list of those who have declined committee appointments, and will have to get back to the Committee on Committees about the positions. One important disappointment is that Marilyn Kaplan will be unable to chair the Learning Management Systems and Distance Learning Committees. She has just been appointed assistant Dean, and will not have the time.

C. The schedule of events for our 40th Anniversary festival is set. Dr Leaf asked Tim Redman for a report and Dr. Redman described the program.

D. Dr. Cunningham has raised the question of a policy for awarding posthumous degrees. At present we have no such policy, and to my knowledge we have never awarded such a degree. Such policies are fairly common, however. There seem to be two main reasons for doing this. First, it is sometimes used to rectify an injustice, and it more often used to provide a sense of support and consolation for the family of a student who had worked hard for a degree only to be prevented by accident or disease from finally obtaining it. If there is a sense of the body that we should have such a policy, I will ask the Graduate Council and Committee on Undergraduate Education to consider several current policies at other institutions as models and make recommendations to the Senate through the CEP.

E. The graduate admissions website has been redone, including the application form. The result is that we have much more direct control over the process, and can make much more timely decisions. Please look it over. If there are still problems, notify members of
our ad hoc admissions website liaison committee: Drs. Cantrell, Kieschnick, Holmes, and Prakash. In my view, everyone has done a fine job. The site is now visually attractive, conceptually and processually clear, intelligent, and helpful.

F. The last session of the Texas legislature passed a bill requiring universities to post syllabi for all courses, vitae for the faculty teaching them, and information on the cost of instruction. The bill was responsive to the efforts of the Texas Public Policy Foundation and others to create a sense that we need a more rational “marketplace” for higher education—which is to say that it is a commodity we are offering and we are, absent legislative requirements, not being honest about what it is and what it costs. As it happens, we already have substantially the same requirements in place on our own, except that the bill adds a few additional elements that we would not have: like specifying what information a vita should contain, and requiring that each course include provisions for student evaluation of “teaching,” where we have always tried to focus on the idea that we were evaluating the course. The bill is primarily important as an indication of legislative willingness to micromanage higher education, and secondly as an indication of legislative willingness to see higher education as a commodity and of universities as purveyors of it. The House Bill is 2504, the Senate Bill was 81(R).

G. Exigency Policy. We have a draft policy, which I placed on the Council agenda in two versions. The two versions differed in the appeals procedure. One used the language from the exigency policy in Regents’ Rules. The other used an adaptation of our own grievance procedure. The reason for the two is that the UT System is considering changing the Regents’ Rule policy, and has asked for feedback from the campuses. Sentiment on the Council, however, was that we should not pass anything contrary to Regents Rules, and the Council voted to postpone consideration. Meanwhile, I have been placed on a System task force to consider the Regents Rules. I would like to place the drafts on the agenda for the next meeting as a discussion item, and in the meantime we will see what happens at the System level.

FAC Report.

A. The next meeting of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council will be October 1 and 2. One of the items for consideration will be the exigency policy. Another question that has come up somewhat in relation to the exigency issues is the possibility of recommending a system-wide policy for establishing governance committees to advise on strategic planning—for much the same reason we have been thinking along the same lines since last spring.

B. My presentation to the BOR on the FAC effort to get a faculty regent law passed seems to have been well received. The only comment from the member of the Board chairing the meeting, Regent Dannenbaum, was that we should consider whether one representative would be enough. We will now pursue the alternative: having a regular representative from the Faculty Advisory Council (or perhaps two, one from the medical campuses and one from the academic campuses).
5. **GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Rhonda Blackburn**

Dr. Blackburn spoke regarding e-learning and WebCT. She discussed where we came from, where we are and where we are going. She discussed issues related to the switch from PeopleSoft to e-learning to WebCT. The faculty discussed problems they are encountering with WebCT. Dr. Blackburn said should would continue to involve the faculty in testing and seek feedback from them.

6. **GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Jim Gary**

Dr. Gary spoke regarding laptop security and that the goal of laptop security is to prevent data loss. He reported that there has been a slow start on encryption as it is a system wide program. The faculty discussed issues that they are encountering. The Senate raised no objections to the current policy.

7. **GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Duncan MacFarlane**

Dr. MacFarlane gave a report on the Intellectual Property Committee and the proposed revised policy memoranda on Intellectual Property. Dr. MacFarlane reported that the main change is actually in the way the committee operates, in relation to changes in the office of the Vice President for Research. The committee process is more rational and more accelerated and functions as an oversight committee; almost as a peer reviewed process.

The policy is now more closely aligned with the UT System policy.

Dr Leaf had asked the committee, in reviewing its charge, to consider whether we still needed such a body in view of the expanded concern with research at the System level. The committee’s answer is that it continues to be necessary, and we should continue to develop our own policies.

Dr. Leaf asked for a motion to accept the committee’s revisions to the university policy memorandum on Intellectual Property.

Dr. Cantrell made the motion to accept the committee’s recommendations, Dr. Redman seconded the motion. The motion to accept the committee’s recommendations passed.

8. **CEP –**

Degree Proposal: Ph.D. Arts and Technology

Proposed Undergraduate Minor: Global Communication and Leadership

Dr. Cantrell introduced the degree proposals for the Ph.D in Arts & Technology and the proposed undergraduate minor-Global Communication and Leadership. Dr. Dennis
Kratz, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities discussed the Ph.D. degree proposal and the proposed minor. Dr. Shelly Lane gave some additional information on the proposed undergraduate minor.

Dr. Cantrell asked for discussion or questions on the Ph.D. proposal.

Dr. Cantrell thanked Ms. Serenity King of the Provost Office for creating UT Dallas’ excellent reputation with program proposals at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. Cantrell made the motion to approve the Ph.D. Arts and Technology degree proposal. Dr. Redman seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Ph.D degree proposal passed.

Dr. Cantrell then discussed the Undergraduate Minor on Global Communication and Leadership and asked for questions.

Dr. Cantrell made the motion to approve the Undergraduate Minor-Global Communications and Leadership. The motion to approve the Undergraduate Minor-Global Communications and Leadership passed.

9. CONFIRM SUBSTITUTE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Leaf discussed the substitute committee assignments. Dr. Leaf called for a motion to approve Dr. Homer Montgomery as chair of the Committee on Distance Learning. Dr. Izen made the motion to approve Dr. Montgomery as chair. Dr. Cordell seconded the motion. The motion to approve Dr. Homer Montgomery as chair of the Committee on Distance Learning was approved.

Dr. Leaf asked for two motions to approve a change of assignment requested by Dr. Sean Cotter and Dr. Susan Briante, who wanted to swap appointments.

1. Approve the appointment of Dr. Sean Cotter to the Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity to replace Dr. Susan Briante, serving to 2011, and

2. Approve the appointment of Dr. Susan Briante to the Auxiliary Services Advisory Committee to replace Dr. Sean Cotter, serving to 2010.

Dr. Redman made the motion to approve the changes to the committees. Dr. Cordell seconded the motion. The motion passed to approve the change to move Dr. Sean Cotter to the Committee for Support of Diversity and Equity. The motion was also approved to allow Susan Briante’s move to the Auxiliary Services Committee.
10. COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Dr. Leaf introduced the Committee Annual Reports and asked for a motion to accept the reports. Reaction from the floor indicated that the reports had not been distributed in time manner for this meeting. Dr. Chandrasekaran moved to table the Committee reports until the next meeting. Dr. Cantrell seconded the motion. The motion to table the Committee reports until the next meeting passed.

The Committee reports will be posted to the Academic Senate website.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Leaf asked for a motion to adjourn the September 16, 2009 Senate meeting. Dr. Scotch made the motion to adjourn. Dr. Redman seconded the motion. The motion passed and the September 16, 2009 Senate meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: [Signature]
Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Senate

DATE: 28 Jan 2010