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
MARCH 21, 2012

PRESENT: Shawn Alborz, Peter Assmann, Poras Balsara, Kurt Beron, Dinesh Bhatia, Judd Bradbury, John Burr, Cy Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Greg Dess, Gregg Dieckmann, John Ferguson, Lev Gelb, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Joe Izen, Murray Leaf, Sumit Majumdar, Stanimir Markov, Dennis Miller, Jessica Murphy, Michael Rebello, Liz Salter, Richard Scotch, Lucien Thompson, Zhenyu Xuan

ABSENT: Bobby Alexander, Dan Bochsler, Gail Breen, Daniel Cohen, Ganesh Janakiraman, Kamran Kiasaleh, Syam Menon, Neeraj Mittal, Steven Nielsen, Ravi Prakash, Monica Rankin, Tim Redman, Venus Reese, Lakshman Tamil, Mark Thouin

VISITORS: Andrew Blanchard, Calvin Jamison, Austin Cunningham, Marilyn Kaplan, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Sheila Piñeres, Mary Jo Venetis, Sharkey Andrews, Chris Parr, Rochelle Pena

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

President Daniel called the meeting to order and asked if there was any objection to considering and acting on agenda item 7 – Tobacco-Free Building Resolution so that Dr. Jamison could leave to attend another meeting. There was no objection. Dr. Daniel reported that the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas, which funds a lot of research on cancer and cancer prevention, has passed a rule that all CPRIT-sponsored research must occur in tobacco-free buildings. This also applies to the area immediately surrounding the buildings. We have several CPRIT projects and are likely to have many more. Dr. Daniel has consulted with the Academic Council, Student Government leaders and the Staff Council. Although not every building on campus houses CPRIT research, because some of that research may take place in the library or faculty offices, everyone agreed that the best approach would be to simply extend our current smoke-free buildings policy to tobacco-free buildings. By doing that we will comply with CPRIT that all buildings where research is done are tobacco-free.

The proposed resolution further recommends that the use of tobacco be banned in additional permanent outdoor places where faculty, staff, employees, and students gather, such as the steps by the Student Union. Richard Scotch moved to approve the resolution. Kurt Beron seconded.

Dr. Daniel added that assuming the resolution is approved the main question is actually enforcement of the policy. He asked that a representative group from the Senate work with Dr. Jamison in establishing the policy so that the issue of enforcement is adequately addressed. Dr. Jamison was asked if there would be specific outside smoking areas designated. He replied that all outside areas, unless designated as tobacco-free are by definition smoking areas. There is interest in designating covered smoking areas but this needs to be done in a way that does not infringe on those who do not want to breathe the smoke.
Speaker Leaf stated that the University Safety and Security Council has discussed this issue in the past with the idea of constructing covered shelters around campus that could be designated as smoking areas but would also serve as the designated assembly site for emergency evacuations.

In response to a question, Dr. Jamison stated that we do not have an enforcement policy at the appropriate level for the current smoke-free policy. It is not a criminal act and there is no written description of penalties, so it essentially becomes a human resources issue if an employee repeatedly disregards the rules of the University.

The resolution was approved.

Dr. Daniel continued with his announcements. He reported that it now appears we will have enough residual funds to complete the entire ATEC building. Construction is on schedule for the building to be open in fall 2013. The architect has been selected for the addition to the School of Management building. It is scheduled to be opened in 2014. We are selecting architects today for the next residence hall building.

A new parking lot will be constructed across Rutford Avenue from NSERL on the southwest corner of Synergy Park and Rutford.

Our biggest problem at the moment with regard to space is with student housing. We are adding 400 new beds this fall. We are planning another 600 beds in Residence Hall 4 and are considering whether we should move aggressively on Residence Hall 5 right away.

Dr. Daniel anticipates that the fall freshman class should be comparable in size to last fall’s class, but noted that the SAT score of admitted students is about 30 points higher than last year. Applications from National Merit Scholars are up 30% over last fall as well. We are trying to target a 5% enrollment growth next fall.

There will be an important meeting with the Regents in April to discuss tuition proposals. We have increased that our guaranteed four-year tuition program continue, but have requested increases for graduate students and resident undergraduates.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Speaker Leaf called attention to Item 9 in the agenda packet as circulated—Discussion of C/C-grade as a standard requirement for prerequisites across the campus. This item was proposed at the last Senate meeting but requires Senate approval now because the Council did not approve it for placement on this Senate agenda. CEP discussed this item and was not in favor of bringing it before the Senate because they feel it is premature. Richard Scotch moved that the item be tabled pending CEP review. Cy Cantrell seconded the motion. Cy Cantrell stated that CEP will report back to the Senate before the end of the academic year. The motion to table the item was approved.

Cy Cantrell moved to approve the remainder of the agenda as circulated. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Richard Scotch moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Cy Cantrell seconded. The minutes were approved.
4. **Speaker’s Report – Murray Leaf**

1. The Committee on Faculty Standing and Conduct has met and is considering the draft policy on Annual Reviews. I have sent a revised version reflecting the discussions in the last Senate meeting. Dr. Wildenthal has distributed the original draft to the Deans and given them the option of using it or staying with what they have been doing. Since the draft uses essentially the procedure as that already in place, this should not be too problematic. It is mainly a matter of using the four new levels of assessment. The problematic part is the step in the process where the evaluator goes from the levels of assessment in each of the three (or four) areas of activity (research, teaching, service, and possibly administration) to an overall assessment for the year. This was what mainly concerned the Senate, and where the first and current drafts now differ. I am distributing the current draft for the Senate’s information.

2. Senate Elections: Initially 35 faculty were nominated for the 45 seats. All those nominated at the close of nominations were declared elected and the nomination period was extended to March 9th, with the concurrence of the election committee. Eight additional people had been nominated by only one person each. Dr. Cordell has notified the eight and asked them to try to get a second nomination. By March 9, an additional six had been nominated. All nominees in the second round have also been declared elected and the election has been declared closed. The faculty has been notified of the results.

For next year, I will ask Simon Kane to find a way to include a list of all those receiving just one nomination on the election website so possible nominators can see them and add a nomination.

3. Simon Kane has developed a webpage for soliciting interest for serving on senate and university committees. The council has reviewed it. I have suggested some final wording changes. This should be much more efficient and easier to manage than emails.

The URL is [https://eforms.utdallas.edu/senate_service_application](https://eforms.utdallas.edu/senate_service_application)

4. I have drafted a background letter for the 3+3 committee to revise the policy on peer review for non-tenure system faculty. Dr. Wildenthal will send it with an appointment letter.

**FAC Report – Murray Leaf**

1. Conflict of Interest Policy and Conflict of Commitment Policy. The Conflict of Interest policy is still being worked on among the several campuses. The Chancellor and OGC seem satisfied that the matter is settled. I suspect it will become unsettled again, but if the campuses can agree among themselves on something different from the proposed model, but still consistent with the regents rule, I think the Chancellor and OGC will be agreeable. No one really wants to get in the way of useful activity.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Cigarroa has established a committee to take what the Regents consider to be the next logical step, which is Conflict of Commitment. He has established a “blue ribbon committee.” Greg Dess and I have been asked to serve on it. The group is being co-chaired by Dr. Patricia Hurn, AVC for Research in Health Affairs and Dr. Dale Klein, AVC for Research in Academic Affairs. We had our first meeting this past Monday.

Conflict of Commitment can be even much more of a legal and ethical minefield than conflict of interest, but I think the group is off to a good start. The focus is much more on what can be
done to encourage faculty to engage in consulting and other activities that supplement and strengthen their university work than to demand prior clearance for all activities that might possibly interfere with it. 2. Annual Reviews and Comprehensive Periodic Performance Evaluations. I have sent a draft model policy for annual reviews to the Faculty Advisory Council Executive Committee. They will discuss it at the meeting scheduled for March 23. My sense is that it is generally acceptable. We will not draft a parallel full-scale model policy for the Comprehensive Periodic Performance Evaluation because all campuses already have approved policies in place. Instead, we will suggest wording for the crucial parts concerning the use of the four categories and how to get from separate evaluations in research, teaching, and so forth to overall evaluations and then provide guidance on how this can be inserted in the present policies.

5. **Student Government Liaison Report**
Sharkey Andrews, Student Government President, reported that the “I Heart UT Dallas” event will take place Saturday, March 31 from 9:30 a.m. - noon. This is a health fair in conjunction with a 5k run. They have a number of on-campus and community partners for this event. The registration link to sign up for the 5k run is [http://www.dashfordiabetes.org](http://www.dashfordiabetes.org)

The Student Government elections will be held next week. There are three referenda on the ballot dealing with potential student fee increases. Sharkey asked faculty to encourage students to vote in this election. Speaker Leaf suggested that she send an email to the faculty mailing list to encourage them to promote the election. He offered to send the email on her behalf if she was not able to send it directly.

6. **Tobacco-Free Building Resolution**
This item was discussed and voted on earlier in the meeting during the President’s announcements.

7. **Revision to Policy on HOP Committee**
Speaker Leaf stated that the proposed changes are consistent with recommendations from the Faculty Advisory Council. In the original wording there was the logical possibility that the Senate could make a change in academic policies and it could be voted down by a committee consisting of one member of the Senate with other non-Senate members. There was also the possibility that non-faculty could impose academic policy. This revision completely and clearly eliminates that and establishes a procedure for what happens if the HOP Committee does not approve something. In response to a question, Speaker Leaf pointed out that in cases where there is disagreement the final resolution would rest with the President.

Richard Scotch moved to approve the revision as circulated. Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki seconded. The motion carried.

8. **CEP Proposal - Graduate Catalog**
Cy Cantrell said that the catalog information was considered by CEP at its most recent meeting. The most substantive change in the material presented is the elimination of the M.A.T. degree. Other changes were effectively editorial changes in academic programs.

Cy Cantrell moved to approve the graduate catalog. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.
9. ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED: 

DATE: 29 Jan 2013

Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Academic Senate