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
APRIL 18, 2012

PRESENT: Hobson Wildenthal, Poras Balsara, Dinesh Bhatia, Dan Bochsler, Judd Bradbury, Gail Breen, John Burr, Cy Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Greg Dess, Gregg Dieckmann, John Ferguson, Lev Gelb, Joe Izen, Ganesh Janakiraman, Murray Leaf, Sumit Majumdar, Stanimir Markov, Syam Menon, Dennis Miller, Jessica Murphy, Ravi Prakash, Monica Rankin, Michael Rebello, Tim Redman, Liz Salter, Tres Thompson

ABSENT: Bobby Alexander, Peter Assmann, Kurt Beron, Daniel Cohen, John Geissman, Jeremy Hall, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Kamran Kiasaleh, Neeraj Mittal, Steven Nielsen, Venus Reese, Lakshman Tamil, Mark Thoun, Zhenyu Xuan

VISITORS: Andrew Blanchard, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Raj Dwivendi, Chris Parr, Rochelle Pena

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS
   Provost Wildenthal called the meeting to order. He announced that there was still no decision on our proposal to increase tuition. There was to be a meeting to discuss this issue last week, but this item was postponed until the May Regents’ meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Cy Cantrell moved to approve the agenda as circulated. Dan Bochsler seconded. The motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   Cy Cantrell moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Greg Dess seconded. The minutes were approved as circulated.

4. SPEAKER’S REPORT – MURRAY LEAF
   Speaker Leaf said that if there were no objection, he would like to depart from the normal order of presentations to hear Calvin Brown, Emergency Management Manager, talk about problems that arose during the emergency alert for severe weather last week. There was no objection. Speaker Leaf introduced Mr. Brown.

   Mr. Brown stated that there was some confusion on campus when the sirens were sounded and the purpose of his visit today is to make sure that faculty understand what to do in an emergency situation.

   When the City of Richardson sounds their outdoor warning sirens those on campus go off as well. Last week city officials sounded the sirens prematurely. That contributed to the confusion on campus, but was not the only problem. After the sirens on campus were sounded, instructions should have been broadcast over the indoor fire alarm system. This did not happen.
Also, no “all clear” was ever sounded. Mr. Brown said these mistakes will be corrected; they should not recur.

UTD will also intensify the training for emergency action that is being offered. In that connection, he described the steps that should be taken in the event there is ever a situation where the campus is on lock-down and distributed a pamphlet containing instructions on what to do in emergency situations. There were some questions and answers.

Speaker Leaf announced that UTD will be hosting the India Enterprise Forum in May and asked Sumit Majumdar provide more information on this event. The Forum will be held on May 15 and will bring together leaders from around the world, including Ambassador Hardeep Puri, India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations. They will discuss the economic opportunities and challenges associated with India’s rapid expansion. The event is open to students, but there is a charge for attendees who are from outside the University.

Speaker Leaf reported that The University Safety and Security Council is considering implementing the Tobacco-Free Building Resolution that was passed at the March Senate meeting. The Faculty Standing and Conduct Committee is still working on the Annual Review policy.

5. FAC REPORT - MURRAY LEAF
The Faculty Advisory Committee will meet next week and will consider a draft of the proposed new system policy on conflict of commitments. The goal is to develop a policy that is more faculty-friendly. There is an Annual Review Policy that is under consideration at the System level. This will not affect the policy that we are considering.

David Cordell stated that he had been appointed to a committee at the System level dealing with peer teaching evaluations. The idea is that some system will be created in which everyone, tenured or not, would have evaluation of teaching quality and peer evaluation. He asked that anyone with thoughts or ideas on this issue let him know. Dennis Miller said that the Committee on Effective Teaching has a proposal to begin a peer-review system that would be used here in conjunction with student evaluations. He will make sure that both David Cordell and Murray Leaf receive copies of this proposal.

6. STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON REPORT
Sharkey Andrews reported that all three of the student fee referenda in the recent Student Government election passed. The request for approval of these fees has been sent to Pedro Reyes. This will be Ms. Andrews’ last meeting. Raj Dwivendi is the new Student Government president and he will be attending the Senate meetings for the coming year.

7. CEP PROPOSALS
   Exercise Sciences Minor: This is a proposal from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies to package existing courses into a minor. Liz Salter from IS stated that this is not set up as a minor that will change into a major in the future. She anticipates that it will be particularly popular with students in the Teacher Education program who will be coaching upon graduation. Cy Cantrell moved to approve. Greg Dess seconded. The motion carried.

   Graduate Certificate in Healthcare IT: Cy Cantrell stated that there is strong local demand for a program of this type. This certificate proposal is a repackaging of existing courses; it will
not require any new courses but would presumably increase enrollment in the existing courses. Cy Cantrell moved to approve the proposal. Sumit Majumdar seconded. The motion carried.

**Minor in Public Health:** This is a proposal from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and is also a repackaging of existing courses. Cy Cantrell moved to approve. Jessica Murphy seconded. A Senator asked whether we would consider the creation of a School of Public Health at some time in the future. Dr. Wildenthal responded that there were no plans to move in this direction in the near future. The motion carried.

**B.S. in Healthcare Studies:** This is a new program request from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Cy Cantrell asked Liz Salter if she would like to address this proposal. Dr. Salter said that this degree requires students to take the courses that are required for entrance into medical school or optometry school. Apart from a kinesiology course, this proposal is a repackaging of existing courses. This is a much more interdisciplinary approach and students have more freedom in focusing their courses in what they are particularly interested in. She noted that much of the current research shows that as long as students have the basic requirements for entrance into medical school it is actually to their advantage to have a broader, more interdisciplinary background.

Cy Cantrell moved to approve this degree proposal. Liz Salter seconded. In response to a question, Dr. Salter noted that only the academic advising would be handled through IS. All other advising related to internships, scheduling medical school interviews, etc. would still be done in conjunction with HPAC. There were no further questions and the motion carried.

**Recommendation on Minimum Grades in Prerequisites to Undergraduate Courses:** Cy Cantrell stated that the CEP has considered the possibility of a uniform minimum grade in prerequisite courses as requested by the Senate. He said there strong feeling from some in the School of Management to require a grade of C or C- as the minimum grade for all prerequisites in the university. While many in CEP were sympathetic to such an idea, they also recognize that there are different functions of prerequisites and that prerequisites may be viewed differently in different schools. In fact, within a particular degree program some prerequisites may have more critical performance standards than other. Due to these factors, CEP recommends that the minimum grade in a prerequisite course should be established by the faculty who own the degree program. There is also the issue of entrance requirements into various majors. In the opinion of CEP, this discussion, too, needs to be made in the degree programs. The decision needs to come from the faculty. It is not something, in the opinion of the members of CEP that should be imposed from above. The CEP agrees, however that course descriptions should not say courses are required when they are only recommended. If a course is described as a prerequisite, it should be a prerequisite in fact and the required grade can be stated, so the registrar can block enrollment of student who fail to meet the requirement. If the course is only recommended, it need not have a stated grade.

Cy Cantrell moved approval of the recommendation. Tim Redman seconded. The motion carried with one opposing vote.

8. **APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION**

David Cordell made the following motion for the candidates for graduate degrees:
These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all of these students will be eligible for the degrees
indicated upon satisfactory completion of the current semester’s work. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify these students to receive the degrees as indicated upon receipt of final grades and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades received are consistent with the standards for credit prescribed by this University.

Cy Cantrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

David Cordell made the following motion for the candidates for undergraduate degrees:
These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The Office of Records declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon the completion of the current semester’s work at the necessary levels. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify the students to graduate upon receipt of final grades, and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades are consistent with the standards for graduation prescribed by this University. I also request that the Academic Senate certify those students as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of coursework and requirements consistent with the standards at the levels offered by this University.

Cy Cantrell seconded the motion. The motion carried

9. ADJOURNMENT
Tres Thompson said that he was forwarding to Speaker Leaf a request from the Undergraduate and Graduate Deans in Behavioral and Brain Sciences dealing with A/V infrastructure not being present in all classrooms. He noted that BBS has outgrown all the classrooms under their jurisdiction in Green Hall and as they move to other locations they are finding there is not any A/V infrastructure in the classrooms available to them. In rooms where there is some equipment it is often not functional. Provost Wildenthal asked him to forward the request to Dr. Blanchard rather than Speaker Leaf. He is aware that there are areas on campus that need to have technology upgrades.

There being no further business, Provost Wildenthal adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:  
Murray J. Leaf  
Speaker of the Academic Senate

DATE: 23 Jan 2013