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 15, 2017

Present: Richard Benson, Hobson Wildenthal, Robert Ackerman, Nofal Al-Dhair, Purnas Balsara, Karen Baynham, Elizabeth Bell, Kurt Berson, Dinesh Bhatia, Patrick Brandt, Gail Breen, Thomas Brikowski, R. Chandrasekaran, Nadine Connell, David Cordell, Ovidiu Daescu, Chris Davis, Gregg Dieckmann, Vladimir Dragovic, Frank Dufour, Eric Farrar, Gopal Gupta, Julie Haworth, William Hefley, Kimberly Hill, Jennifer Holmes, Joe Izen, Dohyeong Kim, Midori Kitagawa, Murray Leaf, Syam Menon, Radha Mookerjee, BPS Murthi, Simeon Ntafos, Naim Ozel, Ravi Prakash, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Tim Redman, Christopher Ryan, Betsy Schlobohm, Richard Scotch, Tres Thompson, Tonja Wissinger, Alejandro Zentner


Visitors: Andrew Blanchard, Cristen Casey, Naomi Emmet, Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Michele Lockhart, Jennifer McDowell, Inga Musselman, Akshitha Padigela, Robert Pearson, Clint Peinhardt, Bill Pervin, Nicole Piquero, Ben Porter, Elizabeth Rugg, Marion Underwood, Karl Van Leevenan,

1. Call to Order
President Benson called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. President Benson has been working in Austin for the interests of the University in the state budget. Negotiations between the Senate and House should continue for another month.

President Benson noted that the phase two construction on the Northside project has begun and that commercial services are continuing to move into Northside phase one.

A study by sociologists from UT Austin exploring the instances of inappropriate sexual behavior on UT System campuses is near completion. The announcement from the Chancellor on the findings is expected on February 24, 2017. President Benson opened the floor to questions.

Questions were raised on the announcement by State Gov. Abbott’s hiring freeze on state agencies through August 3rd, 2017. President Benson stated that if the position could be filled using non-state funds, the position would be filled. He further noted that positions could be posted, however they cannot be filled until September 1, 2017, which is problematic for hiring faculty. The Faculty Senate was advised that campus mail services had been reduced to once per day due to resignations and the inability to rehire.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Joe Izen moved to accept the agenda as circulated. Betsy Schlubohm seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of the January 18, 2017, Minutes
Betsy Schlubohm move to correct “SACS” to SACSCOC in the January 18, 2017 minutes and to approve the amended minutes. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker's Report – Tim Redman
1. Speaker Redman expressed his view that President Trump’s executive order freezing travel from seven specific countries was having a chilling effect on the academic community, including one of Speaker Redman’s students.
2. Following the January Academic Senate meeting the President of Staff Council approached Speaker Redman with a concern regarding staff appointments to a University committee. Speaker Redman's findings from that discussion were circulated in the agenda packet. Murray Leaf moved that the question be referred to President Benson. William Hefley seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. A lively discussion on Research Accounting occurred at the Academic Council on February 1, 2017. Speaker Redman thanked Joe Izen, and Matthew Goeckner for bringing the issue to Academic Senate’s attention. There is great interest at all levels to get the problem under control. Speaker Redman expressed his view that a committee similar in makeup to the Handbook of Operating Procedure Committee should be used to address the issue. Further discussion was deferred until the March 1, 2017, Academic Council meeting.
4. All items other items are on the agenda.

5. UT Dallas’s SACSCOC Reaffirmation Project – Serenity King
The chair of the SACSCOC visiting committee has been selected, Dr. Alan Boyette from University of North Carolina Greensboro. The university has extended an invitation to visit but at the time of the meeting a response had not been received. Ms. King hopes to have more information at the next Academic Senate meeting.

Ms. King’s office has been helping Christina McGowan update the Academic Senate website since shared governance is an issue that SACSCOC will investigate. Unfortunately, the Senate website is running on outdated software. To allow for further updates to the site it will be overhauled, and rebuilt starting February 20, 2017.

The QEP committee will present recommendations to senior leadership and then at the March Academic Senate meeting.

Ms. King informed the Senate that SACSCOC has published a draft of the updated principles. There are now 83, down from 96. SACSCOC has requested comments from different institutions on the new principles. Our university is currently subject to the old principles and will not be affected by the new principles until our next review.

6. Texas Council of Faculty Senates and UT System Faculty Advisory Council Reports – Murray Leaf & David Cordell
The FAC meeting was attended by Murray Leaf and David Cordell for UT Dallas. In general, the meeting was taken up almost entirely with the chancellors “quantum leaps” initiatives. However,
since some aspects of the quantum leaps are focused on shared governance, the topic is consistent with long-standing FAC concerns and is welcome on most campuses. It is particularly welcome on the health campuses, where faculty governance is least well developed—if it is developed at all.

Specific topics were as follows:

Thursday, January 19

Tony Cucolo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Leadership Development and Veterans Affairs discussed the Women’s Senior Leaders Network/Shared Governance initiative. This involves several members of the Faculty Advisory Council and other women on other campuses. The aim seems to be to bring more women into higher administration.

Campus Reports and discussion of campus issues related to shared governance, student success, non-tenure track faculty, academic time and faculty burnout. FAC Chair Catherine Ross had instructed FAC representatives to focus on shared governance in their reports and to keep the reports brief.

Dr. Steve Leslie, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, spoke of the importance of the Faculty Advisory Council but made no mention of upcoming considerations of policy that Faculty Advisory Council should be involved in, apart from the ongoing discussions of the Chancellor’s initiatives.

Mr. Phillip Dendy, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, and Mr. Trey Atchley, Chief Inquiry Officer, described their jobs. The system wants to press harder on compliance. It was not clear why. Mr. Atchley was previously an investigator with the FBI and apparently will be focused on criminal matters.

Dr. Beth Lynn Maxwell, Chief Health Research Officer, Office of Health Affairs, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, is the replacement for Patricia Hearn. This means that she is the primary system administrator concerned with intellectual property commercialization. She did not continue to assert Dr. Hearn’s sweeping claims to the effect that the Regents own everything faculty members create “in the course and scope of employment,” but she also did not mention the FAC’s previous expressions of concern with such claims. She described her optimism for intellectual property development.

Friday, January 20 – ASH 208

Dr. Stephanie Huie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Mr. Patrick Francis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs described the UT System Study on Causes and Consequences of Burnout. This apparently included a fairly detailed survey. It may be focused only on the medical campuses. The survey revealed, and probably reflected, feelings of ill-treatment due to salary compression and inversion as well as to pressure on faculty to compensate for recent reductions in funding from the National Institutes of Health that have not been recognized by changes in administrative policies regarding workload and promotion. When Stephanie or someone else describing the report noted that the concern with inversion arose because some older faculty being paid only $200,000 a year or more saw that younger faculty were being paid $500,000 or more, there
was a more or less collective gasp from the academic campus representatives followed by rapid loss of interest.

Committee Reports included unanimous approval by the FAC of a final version of the protocol for the campus visits to assess the state of shared governance and see what the System might do to strengthen it. Visits will be by Tony Cuculo and one of the co-chairs of the FAC governance committee, depending on whether it is a health or academic campus. The protocol includes the requirement that each campus will prepare an electronic dossier for the visit. Murray Leaf, for UT Dallas, will provide an initial example that can serve as a template.

Dr. David Daniel, Deputy Chancellor, and Dr. Raymond Greenberg, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, took part in a general discussion of issues of interest to the Council.

Dr. Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave a follow-up to her previous report on steps to improve Student Success/TPI in the Quantum Leaps initiative. As before, the three main aims of the initiative are not problematic; the question is how to apply them to the variety of campuses within the system and the variety of students within the campuses. A major focus continues to be to develop metrics. Metrics continue to include four- and six-year graduation rates and nothing else.

7. Student Government Report – Akshitha Padigela – President for Student Government
Ms. Padigela attended the UT System Student Advisory Council (UT-SAC) meeting. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee passed along their final recommendations to each school’s Chief Diversity Officer. The Advising committee compiled information worked with UT System to make the recommendation to have Quantum Leap funds to improve advising on each campus. Ms. Padigela noted she would continue to be on the Student Success Initiatives Committee through December 2017.

8. CEP Proposals – Clint Peinhardt
   A. Undergraduate Course Inventory
      Forty-three additions, 28 removals, 61 courses were edited. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the undergraduate course inventory. The motion carried.

   B. Graduate Course Inventory
      Forty-one additions, 27 removals, 158 edited courses. Ten courses are repeatable. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the graduate course inventory. The motion carried.

   C. Consolidation of ATEC Degrees (ATEC & EMAC)
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the consolidation of the ATEC and EMAC degree. The motion carried.

   D. Change in Degree/New Concentration: MS in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
      A new concentration was created to appeal more to students with a Biological background. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new concentration in the MS in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. The motion carried.
E. New Degree: Minor in Film Studies
The new minor was created due to student demand. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new minor in film studies. The motion carried.

F. Revision to the In Absentia and Change of Catalog Year Policies
The revisions allowed for the removal of the Graduate Dean’s approval for change of catalog year. A new form was proposed that would allow for documentation. The change in the “In Absentia” policy will permit students to pay a small fee during their last semester to allow them to complete a dissertation, or to finish a course for which they received a grade of incomplete, without having to pay for a whole semester of work. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the revisions to the In Absentia and Change of Catalog Year policies. The motion carried.

G. Fast Track Page
A new section of the catalog is now devoted to the university-wide fast track policy, and a new web page for fast track has been created. This change will make the policy consistent across undergraduate and graduate programs. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new university-wide fast track policy, and the creation of the new web page. The motion carried.

H. Freshman Admission Changes
There has been pressure to better manage the enrollment numbers. The state requires automatic admission of the top 10% of a high school graduating class. Currently the university also admits automatically if the student had a 1250 SAT score. This change removes the automatic admittance based solely on the student’s SAT score. Those students will now be reviewed holistically. This will double the amount of holistically admitted students, but it will allow for better control of admissions. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to freshman admissions. The motion carried.

I. Transfer Admission changes
Currently the transfer GPA is 2.75. It is being raised to 3.0 for fall 2018. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to transfer admission. The motion carried.

9. Senate Elections - David Cordell

10. Resolution of Support for President Benson - Murray Leaf
Murray Leaf moved approve a resolution of support of a statement by President Benson concerning the travel ban imposed by President Donald J. Trump.

"The Academic Senate of the University of Texas at Dallas fully supports the position taken by President Benson in his letter of 30 January, 2017, regarding the presidential executive order temporarily barring individuals from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen."
“Universities depend upon the free flow of ideas, which depends on the free movement of people. We are strengthened, not threatened, by welcoming students and scholars with diverse perspectives from across the globe who are willing to engage in open-minded inquiry and debate. We oppose any restriction that would categorically deny the ability to teach, engage in research, or study on the basis of race, religion, immigration status, nation of origin, or any other such personal characteristic that is not relevant to their ability to participate in the life of a community of scholars and students.”

David Cordell seconded. The motion carried unanimously by acclamation.

11. Rescind of UTDPP 1054- Graduate Studies Committee – Serenity King
Because of the yearly review of policies by the Handbook of Operating Procedures Committee, many Academic Affairs policies are being reviewed this year. UTDPP 1054 was reviewed by the Graduate Council, which requested that the policy be rescinded since the respective schools’ bylaws currently specify how that school handles its graduate studies programs. Richard Scotch moved to rescind UTDPP1054. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

12. FY 16 Annual Committee Report- David Cordell
David Cordell moved to accept the annual report of the University Sustainability Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

13. Adjournment
There being no further business, Richard Benson adjourned the meeting at 2:02 PM.

APPROVED: [Signature]

DATE: 17, V, 17

Tim Redman
Speaker of the Faculty