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
January 20, 2016

Present: Hobson Wildenthal, Robert Ackerman, Naotal Al-Dhair, Frank Anderson, Karen Baynham, Elizabeth Bell, Kurt Beron, Dinesh Bhatia, Judd Bradbury, Patrick Brandt, Matthew Brown, John Burr, R Chandrasekaran, Nadine Connell, David Cordell, Gregory Dess, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Bernard Ganglmair, Nicholas Gans, Lev Gelb, Jennifer Holmes, D.T. Huynh, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Joe Izen, Murray Leaf, Michele Lockhart, Syam Meenon, Ramachandran Natarajan, Simeon Ntafos, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Michael Rebello, Tim Redman, Christopher Ryan, Betsy Schlobohm, Richard Scotch, Tres Thompson, Michael Tiefeldorf, Tonja Wissinger,

Absent: Inga Musselman, Gail Breen, Micczyslaw Dabkowski, Gregg Dieckmann, Vladimir Dragovic, Dorthee Honhon, M. Ali Hooshyar, Carie Lambert, BPS Murthi, Ravi Prakash, Sabrina Starnaman, Murat Tordal, Alejandro Zentner

Visitors: Andrew Blanchard, Naomi Emmett, Jennifer Hudson, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Jennifer McDowell, Alex Piquero, Nichole Piquero, Elizabeth Samuel, Elizabeth Rugg, Marion Underwood

1. Call to Order, Announcements and Questions
   Interim President Wildenthal called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. The recommendations for Campus Carry have been sent to the Regents. That have been no updates on the tuition increase proposals. The proposals will be presented at the February Regents meeting. Inga Musselman was in Austin attending a meeting of UT System campus Provosts and is unable to attend the Senate meeting. The President notified the Senate that UT System is concerned about the current challenges on the UTD campus. In a special session of the Regents, the Regents approved a $25 million PUF allocation to UTD. There being no further announcements, the President opened the floor to questions. There were none.

2. Approval of the Agenda
   Murray Leaf made the motion to approve the circulated agenda. Matt seconded. The motion carried.

3. Approval of the November 18, 2015 Minutes
   Dinesh Bhatia was left off the list of attendees. Murray Leaf moved to approve the amended minutes. Murat Tordal seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker’s Report – Tim Redman
   1. The search process for a new President is moving forward. The existence of a search is on the Regents’ agenda and is public knowledge. The members of the Presidential Search Committee noted that they are happy with the process as it has progressed.
2. Everything else is on the agenda.

5. Discussion: Moving the Time and Date of the Faculty Senate
Because of a UT System conference call among campus Presidents on Wednesdays, the UT Dallas President must leave Senate and Council meetings. It is fundamental to our system of shared governance for the President to chair the Senate and Council meetings for the Provost to chair in his/her absence. Interim President Wildenthal did pass along the senate's concerns to Executive Vice Chancellor David Daniel, who was sympathetic. There has been no further discussion. The options for the Senate are to change the day of the week or change the time for Senate and Council meetings. Any change would require that Senate by-laws to be amended. Murray Leaf recommended polling the senate members for their opinions on the options. If a change was made, it would go into effect on June 1st, 2016. David Cordell will be distributing a poll to the Senate members and reporting back his findings at the February Senate meeting.

6. Campus Carry Update- Alex Piquero
The campus workgroup finished their weekly meeting right before the Thanksgiving break. At that time the campus workgroup provided the President all of their input based on their weekly discussions. The UT System workgroup’s weekly calls continued until the Christmas break and will resume on February 1, 2016. The main point of discussion will be the hearings taking place in Austin currently. The time lines that were originally specified by the Chancellor in August 2015 have changed. These changes were made due to a variety of factors that have occurred at other campuses and in the state capital. Dr. Piquero invited the faculty to view the streaming meetings online on January 26, 2016 at 9 AM.

The recommendations that were in the distributed packet are situations that would already be excluded due to the wording of the law. The other documentation reflects the discussions of the working group. Dr. Piquero noted that on January 1, 2016 the Texas Open Carry law went into effect, but campuses are NOT open carry.

Each campus’s recommendation must now be to the Regents by early February. System will review the recommendations and respond in February. Once complete, the President of each campus will issue a policy, possibly in March, and it will go into effect on August 1, 2016, unless overruled by a 2/3rd vote of the Board of Regents.

In March there will a discussion on signage and education. It is the system workgroup’s hope that the May 2016 Regents meeting is when the Regents will address the issue. The outcome of the ongoing hearing in Austin will affect the proposed timeline and requirements.

Private universities are allowed to opt out, to Dr. Piquero’s knowledge all have opted out. At this time the floor was opened to questions.

R. Chandrasekaran expressed his concern regarding minors on campus for various events, such as summer camps. The response from Dr. Piquero was that it will be very complicated, and will depend on how the camps will be regulated. SB 11 states: “The President may make determinations at his/her campus that he or she feels are in the best interests of the institution.” If the President wants to do XYZ, then the President can specify XYZ. However, if the Board of Regents votes by a 2/3 majority against a part of the policy, then the President must edit the policy. Otherwise, the law is very clear that the President can make the ultimate decision on each campus.
Matt Brown asked when the Faculty Senate would be able to review and approve the policy. Interim President Wildenthal noted that as soon as the document was made public, it would be brought before the Senate for review. Dr. Brown expressed his objection on how the approval was by the President alone. President Wildenthal noted that the Chancellor has stated that the law is clear, and it must be obeyed. There is no option to vote this up or down. However, should the Faculty Senate wish to express its opinion formally, it is more than welcome to do so. Interim President Wildenthal did note that the biggest point of contention is handguns in classrooms. The prevailing message from the legislature is that classrooms must be included.

Joe Izen raised the concern that in many large section classes, often times evaluations can come back from hateful, and disturbed students. He is concerned that the UTD policy could be similar to UT Austin’s. Dr. Piquero responded that the University would not be responsible for providing gun lockers/safes for Concealed Handgun Owners (CHO’s), but the CHO themselves must provide a proper place to store it themselves. Nadine Connell raised a question about ‘printing’ of the handgun on the CHO’s person. This means someone is able to see the outline of the handgun through the pants, or bag. Dr. Piquero responded that there has not been much discussion on that topic at the system level.

7. UT Dallas’ Reaffirmation Project – Serenity King
The SACSCOC meeting took place in early December. UTD had 13 attendees at the meeting: President Wildenthal, Serenity King, Clint Peinhardt, Joanna Gentsch, Nicky Piquero, Marilyn Kaplan, Alex Piquero, Mary Jo Venetis, Gloria Shenoy, Michael Carriaga, Jessica Murphy, Josh Hammans, and Kim Laird. The “Principles of Accreditation” under revision are fast-track and concurrent courses. Additionally, subsets of Principle 3.13 might become new federal mandates.

Fall 2015 SACSCOC Report requires that the university continue to follow through with the commitments specified by SACS. The commitments require active follow through in each school, and it must be ongoing. It was noted that the Academic Council would be playing an active part. President Wildenthal commended Serenity King for her hard work, and he further commended all the deans for their efforts on the proposals sent to SACS for the fall 2015 report.

The university now has the reaffirmation dates. The Compliance Report/ Draft QEP is due September 11, 2017. The Off-Site Review will take place November 7-10, 2017. The Focus Report (if applicable) will be January 23, 2018. The On-Site visit will be March 6-8, 2018.

Dr. Sarah Maxwell can no longer participate in the Leadership Council, and Dr. Kaplan will take her place. Starting January 25, 2015 Serenity King will begin taking nominees for the Accreditation Committee memberships. Serenity will be having lunch-and-learn events starting January 29, 2016. Lunch will provided for the first 50 attendees. She will be doing three lunch-and-learn events with assigned schools, and then an additional event if needed. Finally, she requested that additional QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) topics be submitted. Jessica Murphy is the Director of QEP.

8. FAC Report- Murray Leaf and David Cordell
FAC is ramping up for the spring meeting. No items have been decided upon for the agenda. The TXCFS will be meeting on January 21, 2016, and will be discussing a variety of issues. The FACS
Executive Council will be discussing the Dual Credit issue at their next meeting. If there are any concerns they are to be sent to David Cordell.

9. CEP Proposals- Clint Peinhardt

The Committee representative presented the following committee report.
A. UTDPP 1052-Policy on Procedures for Completing a Graduate Degree
   Section III.3 made the follow update. “The second examination typically would must be taken no sooner than three months after the first examination, and no later than one year after the first examination. The update was made because the Graduate Council felt they owed the students time to prepare for the exams. The previous wording of “Typically would” did not protect the students. CEP agreed that it is reasonable for qualifying exams to be completed in parts. The change was made to the policy because a school wanted to start making students take the exam within one month. CEP chair Peinhardt made a motion for the Senate to approve.

   Richard Scotch raised a concern that in EPPS exams are typically administered in May, and then retested in August. Requiring the three months will make things difficult on faculty and students. He recommended that the policy be amended to “…must be taken no sooner than two months after the first examination…” Graduate School Dean Marion Underwood noted that Undergraduate Council’s concerns were that students would not be given enough time to properly prepare for exams. Greg Dess reminded the senate that many exams can take up to 4 weeks to properly grade. Nadine Connell noted that in her area it may only take a week to grade the exams, the three months would still be problematic for her area. Richard Scotch amended his recommendation to make it 9 or 10 weeks so that it was more reasonable. The rationale for this change is that often students need and anticipate funding but that a student who does not pass cannot be funded. If they must wait a long period of time it could seriously delay students and financially affect programs. Jennifer Holmes offered the suggestion to move spring exams to finals week. Due the academic calendar, 3 months would cause serious issues. She moved to refer the policy to Graduate Council for further review. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

B. 2016 Graduate Catalog Course Inventory
   There was one class that needed specifically reviewed of the 168 courses presented was HCS7121—“Graduate Seminar in Systems”. It is a repeatable class. The committee reviewed the acceptable reasons for repeating a class. CEP chair Peinhardt made a motion for the Senate to approve the Course Inventory. The motion carried.

C. Undergraduate and Graduate Grade Change Policy
   The wording has been updated to adjust the approval line. Previously the approval line required five different approvals. It has been adjusted to, “A faculty-initiated change of a final grade requires the written approval of the instructor, and the department, program head or Associate Dean, as determined by the school.” The last paragraph was also updated to denote the same approval process. “Any grade change initiated after the eighth week of the semester requires the written approval of the instructor, the department, program head, or Associate Dean, as determined by the school, and the Dean of Undergraduate [or Graduate] Studies.”
Under the Student Request section, a change was made to ensure that it aligns with the academic grievance policy. Previously the student had to petition for a grade review within 60 calendar days. CEP wanted to make sure it was clear to the students that they could petition within that time, but if they go over the limit they must follow the academic grievance policy. The wording was adjusted to make it clearer.

Another change was noted that “Any grade change initiated after the eighth week of the semester requires…” previously read, “Any grade change initiated after the eighth week of the long semester requires…” CUE and Grad Council requested the word “long” be removed because it would be too long of a time for students to consider a grade change. It was not fair for the students who went from fall to spring who had less time.

The first sentence of the Student Request section was updated from “A student has the right to request a review of the grades received in any class.” To read, “After a final grade has been recorded by the Office of the Registrar, a student has the right to request a review of that grade.” This is to make it identical in wording to the Faculty-Initiated section. CEF chair Peinhardt made a motion for the Senate to approve the Grade Change Policy.

Matt Brown raised the concern that the policy would require professors on nine month contracts to ‘work’ during the summer. Clint noted that during the CEP discussion that the approvals could be done electronically. Dr. Brown responded that this was a labor issue. David Cordell noted that there were dissimilar timeframes for fall versus spring because summer adds three months to the time available for a spring grade change. David Cordell moved to refer the policy back to CEP for further review. Matt Brown seconded. The motion carried.

D. Coutelle Dual Degree Program
The program allows a student to do course work at two different universities, and get a PhD from each school. Currently the University has four such agreements. The student listed in the agreement has been at the university since 2014, and will begin studies in France in the spring 2016 semester. As with previous students, the student has completed all UTD requirements, and starting spring 2016 will begin the France portion. CEP chair Peinhardt made a motion for the Senate to approve the Coutelle Agreement. Jennifer Holmes moved to approve. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

E. Updated Graduate Admissions Catalog Policy
Some program agreements with high quality institutions allow for certain test scores to be waived for admission to specific degree programs. An example would be if a partner school nominates a student from the top 20% of his/her class for admission to UTD without an exam. Such agreements are approved by the International Oversight Committee for foreign institutions, and so it is important to allow the flexibility where agreements call for such waivers. CEP chair Peinhardt made a motion for the Senate to approve the Graduate Admissions policy. The motion carried.

10. Student Government Report
No representative was present, therefore no report was given.
11. Amendment to UTDPP 1024- Charge to the Committee on Effective Teaching – Tim Redman
   The reference to student representatives on the committee was amended to include one undergraduate and one graduate student representative on the committee. Murray Leaf motioned to approve the amendments. Greg Dess seconded. The motion carried.

12. Approval of Committee Replacements – Tim Redman
   Committee replacement activity included the following:
   - Institutional Bio safety & Chemical Safety Committee: Lee Bulla replaces Rocky Draper.
   - Staff Council has requested that Deborah Hamlin be the Vice-chair of the Wellness Committee. This appointment is consistent with the UTDPP1017 change to the committee charge that was discussed at the November Academic Senate meeting and passed through the HOP Committee on December 2, 2015.
   - University Wellness Committee: Nancy Bryant left the University. Michele Brown asked to not serve on this committee. Staff Council requested that Sara Asberry and Frances Branham be allowed to serve in place of Nancy Bryant and Michele Brown.

   Murray Leaf moved to approve. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

13. Revisions to Research of Conflict of Interest – Murray Leaf
   Dr. Leaf had circulated an updated research conflict of interest policy. The policy had been approved by the senate during the November meeting, however, during the December 2nd, 2015 HOP meeting it was found it had not been approved by the Office of Research. It was then reviewed by the Research Integrity committee. The policy was updated to reflect federal requirements, and brought back to the Senate for re-approval. Murray Leaf moved to approve the policy. Greg Dess seconded. The motion carried.

14. New Business
   Tres Thompson noted that the new BBS building is now open, and complimented the ease of transition.

15. Adjournment
   There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

   APPROVED: Tim Redman
   Speaker

   DATE: 2 8 16