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
May 20, 2015

Present: David Daniel, Hobson Wildinthal, Naofal Al Dheir, Frank Anderson, Kurt Beron, Judd Bradbury, John Burr, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Gregg Dieckmann, Nicholas Gans, Jennifer Holmes, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Carrie Lambert, Murray Leaf, Michele Lockhart, Emire Musul, Ravi Prakash, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Scott Rippel, Betsy Schlobohm, Richard Scotch, Michael Tiefelsdorf, Murat Torlak, Tres Thompson, Alejandro Zentner

Absent: Zalman Ba’ananov, Poras Balsara, Karen Baynham, Gail Breen, Matthew Brown, George Decourcy, Eugene Deluke, Vladimir Dragovic, John Ferguson, Andrea Fumagalli, Yulia Gel, Lev Gelb, M. Ali Hooshyar, Joe Izen, Wieslaw Krawcewicz, Vance Lewis, Jason McAfee, Dennis Miller, Jinyoung Na, Jared Pickens, Matthew Polze, Tim Redman, Christopher Ryan, Mark Salamasick, Liz Salter, Tonia Wissinger

Visitors: Robert Ackerman, Andrew Blanchard, Lisa Bell, Grant Branan, Patrick Brandt, Monica Evans, Eric Farrar, Dorthee Honhon, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Jennifer McDowell, Inga Musselman

1. Call to Order, Announcements and Questions
President Daniel called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. President Daniel noted that the Tuition Revenue Bond authorization for the new Engineering building appears to be on track for approval in the Legislature. President Daniel acknowledged that he would be leaving the university on July 1, 2015 to be the new deputy chancellor and chief operating officer for UT System. This session will be his final attendance as President. He expressed his thanks to the Faculty senate. He opened the floor to questions. There were none.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Kurt Beron moved to table the One Card System Overview presentation until the August meeting, and to add a discussion on the Presidential search to the agenda and approve the amended agenda. Jennifer Holmes seconded. The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes
Murray Leaf moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Betsy Schlobohm seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker’s Report – Richard Scotch
   1. Tim Redman is in Italy until July 26, 2015. Richard Scotch will be filling in for him until his return.
   2. There will not be a Senate meeting in June and July but the Council will be meeting.
   3. The Strategic Plan was distributed for comment.
   4. Everything was on the agenda.
5. FAC/ TXCFS Report- Murray Leaf

The meeting began Thursday, April 16. Murray Leaf and David Cordell attended for UTD.

The meeting was convened at 10 AM by Elizabeth Heise, as Chair. Dr. Heise reviewed the last Regents’ meeting. Members introduced themselves. The group broke up into committees.

11:00 am Steve Collins, Assoc. Vice Chancellor and Special Counsel for Governmental Relations reviewed the legislative session so far. It has gone better than most expected. The FAC was concerned about legislation requiring campuses to allow concealed weapons. The bill has more sponsors than it needs to pass. All university figures have spoken against it but the legislature is not paying attention to them. He also noted, however, that the legislative process usually operates according to number of well-known laws of nature, beginning with Murphy’s Law and Epstein’s corollary. Murphy’s Law is that whatever can go wrong will. Epstein’s corollary is that if you think the problem is bad, just wait until you see the solution.

12:00 Pedro Reyes, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dan Sharphorn, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel. Members of the faculty advisory Council recently learned Dr. Reyes will be leaving his position. We expressed appreciation for the way he has promoted shared governance. Dr. Reyes noted that the Board of Regents has agreed to the FAC’s request that we have a member from a health campus and from an academic campus present at all meetings of the Academic Affairs Committee, with privilege of the floor. We think this will lead to a substantial improvement in communication with the Board.

1 pm Stephanie Huie, Executive Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, discussed the UT implementation of SciVal in InfluenT. This grows out of Chancellor Cigarroa’s effort to create a “dashboard” reflecting UT faculty activities. The stated purpose is to make available information to assist faculty finding each other and cooperating more effectively. It should also help outside agencies or interested parties find faculty whose expertise they needed. Working with the offices of institutional research on each campus, Stephanie has created common website format. This also uses a common form for the URL. For UT Dallas the URL is a http://utdallas.influent.utsystem.edu. She demonstrated how the site works. It is very nicely done, pulling out keywords to group faculty research and allowing searches across all the faculty of each institution.

The limitations are the limitations of SciVal itself, which are serious. Among other things, it only takes data from STEM journals and the data only goes back to about 1990. The only way it recognizes a book is if it was reviewed in one of the journals. Humanities journals and works of art like sculpture or paintings are not captured. Faculty can access the database and add information on their own. Young faculty might find this worthwhile. Older faculty will not. In my own case, for example, the database showed six publications. I would guess that this is about 2% of what I have actually published, in pages. We discussed such possibilities as uploading curricula vitae or the annual report information on our campuses. It may be possible in the future. But of course the main concern is that either the Regents on their own or administrators on our respective campuses will use this to make their own assessments of faculty value, bypassing and thereby undermining peer review. From what many of the members of the FAC said, this is a serious problem on many campuses already. The FAC concluded that governance leaders should advise everyone on their campuses to look themselves up on this website and provide feedback.
2:00 – 3:00 pm Laura Chambers, Director of Employee Benefits discussed employee benefits and International travel policy. Several members of the FAC have been told by administrators on their campus that it was System policy that they could not expend their own funds for travel without university permission and without going through University travel arrangements. The FAC was assured that there was no such policy, but it was a good idea to buy trip insurance through the university and register your itinerary.

Friday:

9:00 The FAC met with Paul L. Foster, Chairman, Board of Regents. Foster noted the new arrangement for having the FAC represented at meetings of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, and assured the FAC of the Board’s interest and being responsive to the needs of faculty. We had some discussion of the FAC’s interest in rewriting the Regents rules on intellectual property. Evidently the Board is not aware of the faculty point of view or of the way that courts have applied the principle that the creation belongs to the creator in the relation to faculty employment. He asked for my preference, which I stated. He noted that he considered it fair that the university should own what is created with university resources, but agreed to look into it further with the Board. He noted that the Regents now had a task force working on revising the rules and said faculty should be involved. He evidently was not aware that we had been told we would be, but had so far not been asked to send anyone. We reiterated our interest in being in the discussions. Meanwhile, there appears to be no objection to the FAC going ahead and trying to articulate its own position more clearly.

10:00 The FAC met with Chancellor William McRaven. Many of the members had met with Chancellor McRaven in his campus tours, but this was his first meeting with the Faculty Advisory Council as such. Chancellor McRaven laid out his sense of priorities for the future. There was nothing notable that the FAC disagreed with, such as enhanced graduation rates and doing more and better research, but from the FAC’s point of view the main point was not the priorities themselves but the Chancellor’s recognition that improvements are likely to require organizational changes or additional resources, and he considered himself obligated to try to get them. The Chancellor made a point of speaking of all the UT campuses, not just UT Austin.

12:30 – 1:00 pm Marni Baker, Chief Innovation Officer – Discussed Competency Based Learning. This means the online degree programs that the system has been designing. The main one at this point appears to be biostatistics. Faculty who have been involved are pleased with the results. It is an innovative cross-disciplinary program that meets genuine needs and is apparently intellectually rigorous. She also described a few other similar programs in less advanced stages of development. There is no sense that this will become anything like an online college or that it will offer ordinary liberal arts type degree. "Competency based" is evidently not being understood as an idea that applies to all education but rather as education tightly focused on conveying certain technical skills. The FAC generally accepted the value of such programs. There was no discussion of cost except implicitly. Evidently, it is expensive but the hope is that the cost will be recovered on something like a per student basis with increasing scale, and as the modules that are being developed can would be reapplied to additional degrees.

Elections: Antoinette Sol (UTSA) was elected Secretary. Catherine Ross (UT Arlington) was elected President-Elect.
Resolutions:

The governance committee offered a revised version of Reagan's rules 90101 and 90102 dealing with intellectual property. The revisions were consistent with the principal that the creation belongs to the creator and with the purpose a facilitating commercialization of inventions by clarifying rights of possession. The revision was not offered for resolution at this time because the FAC wanted to wait for a seat for a seat on the intellectual property task force. Meanwhile, the members were asked to read and discuss the revision and respond. Dr. Leaf asked the FAC assembly if there were any objections to the draft. There were no objections.

The Academic Affairs and Quality Committee, with concurrence of the Governance Committee, presented a resolution describing the PeopleSoft implementation as “seriously hindering our ability to advise, retain, and graduate students.”

The Academic Affairs and Quality Committee also presented a long resolution title “Best Practices: Policies and Procedures for Assessment of Service.” The reason was that the chair of the Coordinating Board has expressed an interest in recognizing the importance of service, and in providing metrics for assessing it. The FAC wanted to state a position for them and others to consider that avoided destructive oversimplification. Campus governance organizations and administrations will receive the wording.

The third resolution reflected the persistent problem that administrations on some campuses ignore Regents Rules and System policies that the FAC supports:

In the University of Texas System a trend has developed of failure to adhere to operating procedures – particularly those pertaining to curriculum and academic programs - as laid out in institutional HOPs/HOOPs as well as in Regents Rules (See Regents Rules 40101 and 40307 inter alia). The Faculty Advisory Council maintains that the operating procedures of the system provide the governing structure for UT System Campuses rather than representing mere best practice suggestions. Anything less lends itself to capricious and unpredictable governance. On academic, curricular, clinical, and faculty affairs faculty shall always play a central role in developing and maintaining policy. HOP/HOOP policy must be in line with current practices, and where policy and practice do not align policies must be adjusted with full faculty oversight and input, especially in academic/curricular/health care provision/faculty affairs matters.

Addendum:

See:
Regents Rule 40101 “Faculty Role in Educational Policy Formulation” and 40307 “Academic Program Approval Standards”

The health affairs committee offered a resolution asking the Regents to provide additional research funding but the rationale for the funding was not sufficiently clear for the FAC to support the resolution. The FAC recognizes that the Regents cannot simply fill the gap being left by the reduction of federal funding.
6. **Student Government Liaison Report**
   The new Student Government officers have taken office and are currently working on continuing projects.

7. **CEP Proposals**

   The Committee representative presented the following committee report
   
   A. Supplemental Courses – Undergraduate and Graduate
      Undergraduate had only one course, Contemporary Issues in Marine Science. There were five courses submitted. ECON submitted BMEN 7387 - Independent Scientific Research in Biomedical Engineering, and EESC 6389 - Wireless Communications Laboratory. EPSS submitted ECON 5326 Managerial Economics, and ECON 5397 - Special Topics in Economics. JSOM submitted OPRE 7051 - Seminar in Operations Management. Out of the five courses, two are repeatable, ECON 5397 and OPRE 7051. CEP motioned to approve. The motion carried.

   B. Informational: Posting of Syllabus
      The compliance rate of posting the syllabus was found to be very low. There were specific components that were missing on many course syllabi. There are templates available via the Academic Senate website and via CourseBook. It was found that many faculty are not using the templates. Going forward someone on Serenity King’s staff will be reviewing the syllabi, and if something is missing it will be kicked back to the faculty member for correction. This will insure that syllabi are being posted correctly. Serenity King offered to give guidance on how to improve syllabi if requested. She will also speak with the Provost’s Technology Group to create an e-form to allow for ease in making sure all requirements are completed.

   C. Informational: Draft of Statewide Strategic Plan
      Serenity King encouraged the senate members to read the document and give comment. The document is currently in the public comment phase. The main concern of the senate was ‘what is a marketable skill in each program.’ The definition of a marketable skill in the presented document did not match the concept of a marketable skill senate members understood. Serenity King encouraged the senate members to share the document with their fellow faculty and to send comments to her to pass along to UT System.

8. **Presidential Search:**
   There are to be three faculty members on the committee, two of which must be associate professor or higher. After a great deal of discussion, the decision was made that nominations will be sent to Richard Scotch and Christina McGowan will be open until June 3rd, with nominations taken on the floor. Betsy Schlobohm moved to have a special caucus meeting on June 3rd in which all nominees could attend. Two pools of nomination will be made. One for Associate and above, the other open to all. The meeting would take place immediately before the June 3rd Council meeting. Murray Leaf seconded. The motion carried.

9. **Committee on Committee Appointments**
   The Academic Council has nominated the following: Matthew Brown (A&H); David Cordell (SOM); Monica Evans (ATECH); John Hoffman (NS&M); Balaji Raghavachari (ECS); Robert Stillman (BBS). All appointees had agreed to serve. Greg Dess moved to approve. Betsy Schlobohm seconded. The motion carried.
10. Update from the 3+3+3 Committee on Non-Tenured Faculty
The Committee had developed a consensus, and added Abby Kratz to the committee to assist with policy issues. They then worked with Tim Shaw, who assisted them with conflicts with Regents Rules. That meeting was three weeks prior. Richard Scotch will be sending to the committee members an updated document for the committee’s approval, and then the Provost.

11. Adjournment
There being no further business, President Daniels adjourned the meeting at 3:18 PM. Following adjournment, the members of the Senate rose and applauded President Daniel.

APPROVED: ___________________________ DATE: 11/18/2015
David Cordell
Secretary of the Faculty