APPROVED 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 25, 2009


ABSENT: James Bartlett, Gail Breen, Santosh D’Mello, Jay Dowling, Juan Gonzalez, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Joseph Izen, Kamran Kiasaleh, Adrienne McLean, Dennis Miller, B.P.S. Murthi, Michael Rebello, Tim Redman, Young Ryu, Elizabeth Salter, Lucien Thompson

VISITORS: Hobson Wildenthal, Andrew Blanchard, Austin Cunningham, Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Curt Eley, Mary Jo Venetis, Eric Nicholson, Chris Parr

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

In Dr. Daniel’s absence, Dr. Wildenthal called the meeting to order. Dr. Daniel is in Austin testifying on Tier One Universities. Dr. Wildenthal asked if there were any questions, there being none, he turned to meeting over to Dr. Leaf.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Cantrell moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Amin Gutierrez de Pineres seconded the motion. The motion carried. The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Scotch moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Dr. Cantrell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Leaf discussed issues of security and safety on our campus. The committee on Safety and Security has agreed to do a comprehensive overview of the various policies in place and the ways they fit together. On March 31st, the speaker will meet with Dean Donna Rogers.
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Dr. Overzet, committee chair; and a representative from the Office of General Counsel to discuss legal issues related to the policies being developed.

The Senate elections have been held. As announced, 33 senators have been elected for the tenure system faculty, and four have been elected for the non-tenure system faculty.

Dr. Leaf reported that the Academic Council discussed the issue of faculty members appointed with the title of Associate Provost serving on the Academic Senate. Dr. Pineres, Associate Provost, is appointed to the position of Associate Provost at less than fifty percent. The Senate bylaws state no one at the level of Dean or above may serve on the Academic Senate. It was agreed that we should take this directly to the Senate for discussion.

5. FAC REPORT

The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) met in Austin on the 12th & 13th. The faculty regent legislation is moving along but not as we anticipated. Paula Pearson has introduced a bill to appoint a UT System faculty regent. This is the bill originally developed by the UTSystemFAC, but is now on the floor and we need to work with it. The regent would be member of the faculty of a UT component institution appointed for a term of six years. If not further qualified, this could be extremely counter-productive, allowing the governor to appoint someone with little or no real qualifications as a faculty representative. Dr. Leaf has proposed amended wording to require that the nominee must be a member of the tenured faculty of the UT System and selected by the governor from a panel of three people recommended by the Chancellor. Without the revised wording the FAC will oppose the bill.

Dr. Leaf discussed the continuing concerns over UTMB events. One hundred faculty dismissed, over thirty of whom were tenured faculty. Our view in the past was that it was for a specific unit: program, department, or perhaps school. In this case, it was for the whole campus, and the consequence has been a number of actions apparently inconsistent with both the spirit and the letter of the existing rules. There are now thirty appeals being heard by faculty advisory panels. Considering this, the FAC decided to focus on the concept of exigency, what criteria is necessary. The initial inclination was to rewrite the regents’ rules, but after consideration the FAC has considered it wiser to ask the campuses if they have policies on definitions of exigency already in place. Most campuses do not have such policies. It appears that UTD does not have a policy. It is simply the President’s call. Under present circumstances, it seems that something more definite and binding needs to be formulated. Dr. Leaf will bring suggestions to the Council at the next meeting.

There are two Bills in the legislature, one in the House and one in the Senate, to permit concealed handguns on campus SB1164, HB 78. We will place on the website. The bill has vigorous backing of the National Rifle Association
6. **CURT ELEY, VICE PRESIDENT, ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Eley discussed enrollment management; apply Texas, the Graduate application update and the new website. He discussed the problems that enrollment services continues to encounter with graduate applications. There are problems with interface in software and the Systems application process. Several faculty members gave examples of problems they continue to encounter. A contract was let in June, 2008, to work on the interface problems that would need to be resolved to replace the Apply Texas form with our own form. This development is still proceeding.

7. **COPYRIGHT LICENSE**

Dr. Kaplan made a presentation regarding the copyright law and copyright license. UTD is now party to agreement that will govern the faculty use of much copyrighted materials for classroom instruction. Dr. Kaplan provided a handout of Copyright for Online Resources and Copyright for Print Resources that reflects this agreement.

8. **DRAFT GRADUATE APPLICATION**

9. **SENATE BYLAWS CHANGES**

There was a discussion of changes to the Senate Bylaws, beginning with the problem of the new Assistant Provost positions. The question, in a formal sense, was whether an Assistant Provost at less than half time, who was still carrying on the ordinary duties of faculty, should be considered to be come under the exclusion from Senate service of someone at the rank of “dean or higher.” It was agreed that Assistant Provosts should be allowed to serve on the Senate. Dr. Redman argued that the crucial point was whether the administrative office involves financial authority over other faculty. The Senate agreed. The Senate further agreed that it would be too complicated to amend the bylaws in such a way to take into account all the possible contingencies. Instead, we should have a supplemental policy on how the Senate rule should be interpreted. Dr. Leaf agreed to draft the policy.

Additional items discussed were creating term limits, changes with the Senior Lecturer position, the role of the Academic Council, creation of the role of a Vice Speaker and Associate Provost’s serving as senators. None of these proposals gained general support.

At this time it was determined that quorum was no longer present at the meeting. Dr. Cantrell made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Scotch seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dr. Leaf adjourned the meeting.

**APPROVED:**

Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Senate

**DATE:** 22 apr 09