ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
April 20, 2005


ABSENT: Gail Breen, Lawrence Cauller, R. Chandrasakaran, Matthew Leybourne, R. Natarajan, Thomas Riccio, S. Venkatesan

VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Muhammad Kalam, Duncan MacFarlane, Ivor Page

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order and announced that the Legislature has a conference committee established to reconcile the house and senate appropriations recommendations. As soon as that is determined, we will be able to finish our budget. It will probably not be a great year, but it won’t be a terrible year.

U. T. System is very interested in getting the Bush Presidential Library. There was a committee formed to look into this and prepare a proposal. We have a good location for the Library because we have land on which to build it. Our proposal was looked at very favorably. The process is not done yet. They are working to make a cooperative proposal from several institutions under the U. T. System.

Dr. Jenifer also announced that he has just signed the lease on temporary classrooms to be placed next to Hoblitzelle Hall. There will be 17 classrooms and labs, and the lease is for two years. Hopefully this will relieve some of the cramped classrooms.

There will be a new parking facility next to the Management Building on the east side but leaving room for expansion.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 23, 2005. The motion carried.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Nelsen began has report by announcing the results of the election held at the Caucus that was held prior to this meeting. Those elected were as follows:

Speaker: Robert Nelsen (A)  
Secretary: Simeon Ntafos (E)  
Council: Cy Cantrell (E)  
          Gopal Gupta (E)  
          Marilyn Kaplan (M)  
          Robert Kieschnick (M)  
          Liz Salter (G)

There are two active committees on the Strategic Planning process. There is a meeting scheduled with President Daniel on April 21st. The two active committees are listed below. Final Document Committee (which will work over the summer): Hobson Wildenthal, Robert Nelsen, Brian Berry, Marion Underwood, Hasan Pirkul, Bruce Gnade, Juan Gonzalez, Margie French, Reena Schellenberg.

Campus Life: Robert Nelsen, R. Chandrasakaran, Murray Leaf, Gregg Dieckmann, Margaret Owen, Kathryn Stecke, Simeon Ntafos, Cy Cantrell, Michael Coleman, Austin Cunningham, Jody Nelsen, Darrelene Rachavong, Sandee Goertzen, Da Hasan Feng, and Laura Rashedi.

The Campus Life Committee is discussing the following items: infrastructure, role of sports, land development, housing types, grounds, living learning centers, need-based admission, and recruitment of top 10%, graduate admission, service and experiential learning, office of diversity, ombudsman, continuing education, web enhancement, community involvement, and Greek life. The plan remains to have an initial document done by June 1.

Graduate student scholarships: The TA stipends and tuition scholarships were decoupled two years ago to help students who were having to pay taxes on salary and were having difficult times paying tuition on time. In doing so, because of the 99 hour rule, a limit of 10 long semesters was established. An unforeseen problem has arisen that if a student
does an MA and the MA takes 30 – 36 hours, and if student is awarded funding at the MA level, funding at Ph.D. level will run out at 6 long semesters or 3 years. The result is a huge disincentive to recent MA students or the possibility of moving our MA students into the Ph.D. program.

Dr. Nelsen had a meeting with the Provost and several topics were discussed. The Provost confirmed that he said 10 was a minimum not a maximum number of semesters that students would be supported. This was not the understanding of the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Council. There is discrepancy here that needs to be clarified.

Dr. Feng will be conducting a meeting on intellectual property issues. People who want to be involved should step forward.

The Speaker met with the Core Committee on Women and Minorities. They will be reworking their charge to include all staff rather than just A&P.

Senior Lecturers have asked the Senate to look into the following issues: use of titles (ranks and inconsistencies); voting for Senate representatives by half-time Senior Lecturers; representation of clinical and research faculty on Senate; failure to follow through on long term contracts and peer evaluation of Sr. Lecturers, and academic freedom protection.

Dr. Nelsen sent out a question to the faculty about standardizing merit raises procedures. Only the School of Social Sciences has a policy. He will report to the Council the results and ask for guidance about how to proceed.

CQ encountered problems with some files. The most egregious problem was that three persons received a promotion letter from the Provost’s Office before CQ looked at the files. The Provost has assured them that it was a clerical error; CQ questions how seriously the Provost’s Office is considering CQ’s opinion if letters are made up beforehand. CQ met with the Provost and CQ will be preparing a report.

The topic of Tuesday/Thursday and Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes has returned as an issue. More and more classes that were only MW are being pushed into the MWF slot because of space utilization. The Senate agreed to create an ad hoc committee, chaired by Simeon Ntafos, to research this. Other committee members will be Marilyn Kaplan, Cy Cantrell, Murray Leaf, and Ivor Page. Two deans will also be appointed to the committee in consultation with Provost Wildenthal.
The ad hoc Committee on Teaching/Workload has turned in its report. The Council reviewed it and it was tabled by the Council because they felt that the committee did not adequately meet its charge to find ways to reduce teaching loads to appropriate tier one research universities.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Legislative session has kept things quiet.

Tuition increases have been approved on all campuses.

The policies on the appointment and search for a President are being revised. The new policy will state that only one candidate’s name is necessary to be sent to the Regents.

There will be a new system-wide graduation rate initiative.

Accountability office is being charged with overseeing strategic planning – hence compacts do count.

Learning assessment will be back on the table after the Legislative session.

5. DEPARTMENT OF BIOENGINEERING

CEP has approved the new proposal for a Department of Bioengineering, and Dr. Duncan McFarlane spoke to it since it would be housed in the School of Engineering and Computer Science. It will be a collaborative effort, and 50 faculty have endorsed the new departmental creation.

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new proposal. The motion was approved.

6. UPWARD EVALUATION REPORT (REVIEW OF GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE DEAN)

Dr. Wildenthal was called to a meeting in Austin, and therefore was not available to give this report at this meeting. It was agreed that Dr. Wildenthal would be asked to present it at the next Senate meeting.
7. SPECIAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Terry was called to a meeting in Austin, and therefore was not available to give this report at this meeting. It was agreed that Dr. Terry would be asked to present the report at the next Senate meeting.

8. APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2004

Speaker Nelsen presented the following motions to approve the candidates for graduation for Spring 2005.

UNDERGRADUATES:

"These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon completion of the current semester’s work at the necessary levels. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify these 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 designated as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of course work and requirements consistent with the standards for honors at the levels offered by this University."

The Senators approved this motion.

GRADUATES

"These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all 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."

The Senators approved this motion.
9. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen  
Academic Governance Secretary