ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
April 21, 2004


ABSENT: Doug Benn, Janok Bhattacharya, Matthew Goeckner, D. T. Huynh, Marilyn Kaplan, Stephen Levene, Matthew Leybourne, Shun Chen Niu, Larry Overzet, Tim Redman, S. Q. Zheng

VISITORS: Kathy Alexander, Tom Brikowski, Sophie Rutenbar, Robert Stern, Walter Sutton

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Speaker Leaf called the meeting to order in the absence of Dr. Jenifer. He announced the results of the election in the Senate Caucus just prior to the Senate meeting. The results were as follows:

Speaker: Robert Nelsen (A)
Secretary: Simeon Ntafos (E)
Council: Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres (S)
          R. Chandrasakaran (E)
          Juan González (N)
          Robert Kieschnick (M)
          Alice O’Toole (BBS)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 17, 2004. The motion carried.
3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

A. Signage. The committee continues to meet and should have a report in less than a month.

B. Mentoring Committee. I evidently created a miscommunication regarding the Mentoring Committee. David Ford asked whether its membership had been appointed. I had been waiting for a list of suggestions from the Core Committee on Women and Minorities. It turns out we received such a list last November. David re-sent the list. The Committee on Committees will meet tomorrow, 22 April, and forward its recommendations to the Council. The list should be available for approval at the next Senate meeting.

C. President’s Search. The local representatives have revised the Spencer and Stuart prospectus and interview questions. Robert Nelsen has conveyed them to V. C. Sullivan. This included some additional ideas of places to look for additional candidates.

D. The plans for the new science and engineering building seem to be reaching a final stage. At the same time, however, Lynn Melton has been convening a faculty group to explore the development of a bio-engineering program, and a strong conviction appears to be developing on their part that there needs to be much better animal care and animal facility (vivarium). The plans allow space for one but do not actually include one. Since this could be very important direction for us to move into the faculty are very concerned that they not be blocked by sub-optimal decisions on the building. However, Provost Wildenthal seems to be aware of the issues.

E. Please do not forget to sign up for commencement and let Sandee know you have done so.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported on the Faculty Advisory Council’s activities. The Chancellor has sent a letter endorsing the programs proposed at the most recent Board of Regents’ meeting with the following caveats: (1) The peer review process for merit raises should be done in such a manner as not to overtax faculty time, especially the time of those involved in tenure reviews. (2) Long term contracts should not tie the hands of deans who need to replace people for shorter periods of times. (3) Tenure for those who decide to go part-time should be handled at the local level—System does not feel that it is necessary to write a policy regarding the matter since it is not prohibited by Regents’ Rules. (4) The Cross Campus Collaborative Initiative was greatly scaled back to a
Commitment of $2,000 per campus in order to grant, on a competitive basis, $500 to four individuals to travel to other campuses to work with collaborators at those campuses. In other words, there will be no money from System to help defray the cost for hiring temporary replacements for classroom teaching. This scale-back is a major disappointment and will be addressed at the next FAC meeting.

The Accountability and Performance Report is now available on the web at www.utsystem.edu/cha/Accountability.htm. It contains a series of measures (including SAT scores, graduation rates, student outcomes, licensure/certification exam pass rates, faculty awards, numbers of patents and new inventions, faculty/student ratios, faculty salaries and trends, post-tenure review data) by which individual campuses will be “judged.” The document is a public document and has been reviewed by the Legislature and the Board of Regents. There is also a specific peer review section—UTD’s peers (chosen by UTD’s administration) include Georgia Tech, SUNY Albany, SUNY Binghamton, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside, UW Milwaukee, and UNC Greensboro.

The FAC continues to work on the revision of Regents Rules and (with the help of Dr. Dean Sherry) is suggesting several changes to improve the intellectual property section of the Rules.

5. PHOTO ROSTERS

Ted Harpham presented the new photo rosters that the Faculty will have available beginning Fall 2004 semester. The students will be notified soon that these will be used in place of the rosters that are currently used.

6. EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE AT UTD

There is a new email correspondence policy at UTD. UTD provides each student an official UTD email account and that account must be used in all official communications with university personnel. Faculty and staff have no obligation to respond to email correspondence from UTD students unless official university email addresses are used. This new policy has been approved by the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP).

The policy is as follows:

“The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. For this reason, UTD provides each student with a free email account that is to be used in
all communication with university personnel. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Faculty and staff have no obligation to respond to email correspondence from UTD students unless official university email addresses are used.

The Department of Information Resources at UTD provides a method for students to forward email from other accounts to their UTD address and have their UTD mail sent on to other accounts. Students may go to the following URL to establish or maintain their official UTD computer account, http://netid.utdallas.edu.”

7. LIBRARY COMMITTEE – USA PATRIOT ACT

Speaker Leaf discussed the library and reading materials portion of the USA Patriot Act. The Library Committee is drafting a resolution to be presented to the area Libraries and to the Senate about rescinding that portion of the Act. After discussion the issues briefly, the Senators agreed to wait to see what the Library Committee recommends.

8. WORKLOAD POLICY

Dr. Leaf presented the workload memo that Provost Wildenthal sent out to the Deans in March. The workload memo restates the minimum 12 contact hours and the procedures for buying out hours. The memo also contains a provision that raises the minimum class size for undergraduates from 10 to 14 and for graduates from 5 to 7. There was a long discussion about the perceived negative effects this may have on certain graduate programs. There was also discussion about another decision of the Provost that capped the maximum enrollment in some classes.

The Speaker asked the Senate if they felt they should act on this change to class sizes as a body and/or react to the memo in some other way. It was agreed that a 3+3 (three faculty and three deans) Ad Hoc committee should be convened to come back to the Senate with recommendations regarding an overall workload strategy that might better meet the legal requirements and practical constraints. The Council will determine who the members of the Ad Hoc committee should be, and Speaker Leaf will meet with the Provost to determine what Deans should be appointed.
9. APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2004

Speaker Leaf presented the following motions to approve the candidates for graduation for Spring 2004.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen
Academic Governance Secretary