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
December 17, 2008

PRESENT: Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Pineres, Cyrus Cantrell, Kelly Durbin, Jennifer Holmes, Marilyn Kaplan, Robert Kieschnick, Murray Leaf, Paul Mac Alevey, Tim Redman, Richard Scotch

ABSENT: Mark Anderson, James Bartlett, Gail Breen, John Burr, Gregg Dieckmann, Santosh D’Mello, Jay Dowling, Juan Gonzalez, Juan Hoffman, Shayla Holub, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Joseph Izen, Surya Janakiraman, Kamran Kiasaleh, Adreinne McLean, Dennis Miller, B.P.S. Murthi, Steven Nielsen, Simeon Ntafos, Ravi Prakash, Michael Rebello, Young Ryu, Elizabeth Salter, Robert Stern, Lucien Thompson Mary Urquhart, Yunzeng Wang, S. Venkatesan

VISITORS: Hobson Wildenthal, Andrew Blanchard, Michael Coleman, Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Eric Nicholson, Scott Wright

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

In Dr. Daniel’s absence, Dr. Wildenthal called the meeting to order and asked if there were any announcements or questions.

Dr. Calvin Jamison discussed the construction projects, new and continuing, that are occurring on campus. He discussed some of the closures that will affect campus traffic and that while there is a great deal of construction occurring at one time the results will benefit our greater campus community.

Dr. Wildenthal announced that there is great pressure to distribute the crucial, urgent, vital message that grades need to be turned in and confirmed by the semester’s deadline. There was a discussion of the deadline and how to confirm that the grades had been submitted.

Dr. Redman discussed faculty salaries and morale and charged Speaker Leaf with speaking to President Daniel regarding compression of faculty salaries.
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Scotch moved to amend the agenda to add item 12, additional wording clarifying the Undergraduate Probation and Suspension Policy approved in the November 2008 meeting of the Academic Senate.

Dr. Redman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Scotch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jamison asked that the minutes be amended to say “apologizes for the inconvenience” rather than “apologizes for the mess.”

Dr. Redman moved to approve the minutes as amended. Dr. Cantrell seconded. The minutes were approved.

4. SPEAKER’S REPORT

1. Dr. Leaf has been added, as speaker, to a HOP steering committee. This is different from the HOP stakeholder committee that meets every other Friday to handle the actual routing to stakeholders.

2. Staff Council and Student Government have approved the charge of the University Wellness Committee. The HOP committee has agreed that it should go in the handbook, and suggested non-substantive changes. I will send the revised document back to Staff Council and Student Government, but do not anticipate any objections. We should have it on the January agenda.

3. The Learning Management Systems Committee would like to change its name to Learning Technology Committee. I have asked that they hold the request to see if they will also want to make other, additional, changes.

4. A group of faculty from the School of Arts and Humanities has asked for a change in our rule on dissertation titles, to allow the title to either be in inverted pyramid style (the present rule) or non-inverted pyramid. The Academic Council has referred the question to the Graduate Council for advice. If you would like to comment, communicate with Dean Cunningham or your Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

5. FAC REPORT

Dr. Leaf noted that the faculty may be hearing news and rumors from UTMB. This is a very unfortunate situation, involving terminating the employment of 3,800 people, including 127 faculties—43 of which were tenured. The way this has been done seems to have been quite ungracious, and poses a danger of setting some very unfortunate precedents. The basis of the action is, apparently, that the Regents declared the entire campus to be under financial exigency. Heretofore, our understanding has been that exigency had to be with respect to a specific department, program, or unit, and the campus was obliged to make a good faith effort to relocate tenured faculty from that unit elsewhere if at all possible. It was not possible, under exigency, to terminate some tenured faculty in a unit while retaining other tenured faculty. Nor, even more strongly, was it possible to terminate tenured faculty while retaining non-tenured faculty, but this is what has been happening at UTMB.
Dr. Redman noted that The Texas Faculty Association has filed a lawsuit and an outside expert has been consulted.

Dr. Leaf described the FAC response to the high likelihood that the Texas legislature will consider a bill to permit the carrying of concealed handguns on university campuses, The FAC unanimously passed a resolution opposing any change in law that would allow handguns to be carried on campus by anyone other than police officers. He will bring this discussion up at the January meeting.

6. CERTIFICATION OF FALL 2008 GRADUATION CANDIDATES

The Secretary of the Faculty presented the lists of candidates for undergraduate and graduate degrees for the Fall commencement.

Candidates for Undergraduates Degrees: These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The Office of Records declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon the 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 coursework and requirements consistent with the standards for honors at the levels offered by this University.

Dr. Tim Redman moved to approve the list of candidates. Dr. Jennifer Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Candidates for Graduate Degrees: These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all of 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.

Dr. Tim Redman made the motion to approve the list of candidates. Dr. Cy Cantrell seconded the motion. The motion passed.
7. HEALTH CARE MINOR

Dr. Cy Cantrell introduced Scott Wright, who discussed the Health Care Studies minor, a broad overview. Dr. Michael Coleman explained that these courses are independent from hours required to enter medical school.

Dr. Tim Redman moved that the catalog copy be accepted with the minor corrections. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cy Cantrell. The motion carried.

8. BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CERTIFICATE PROPOSAL

Mr. Wright discussed the proposal for a certificate in Biomedical Sciences. This is for post-baccalaureate students, essentially students who graduated without being prepared to go to medical school and subsequently decided to try to prepare themselves. At present, such students register for regular majors, which are not really well adapted to their needs and which they do not complete. This will provide a more direct and appropriate way to accommodate them. It is a flexible program composed of students from a variety of backgrounds.

Dr. Cantrell moved that the Senate approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Kieschnick. The motion carried.

9. ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Dr. Cy Cantrell discussed Academic Certificate Programs (Policy Memorandum 07-III.21-94 and the revised wording stating that these certificate programs need to follow the Coordinating Board’s table of programs.

Dr. Jennifer Holmes made a motion to approve the revised wording. Dr. Robert Kieschnick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE (SOM)

Dr. Robert Kieschnick discussed the proposed academic certificate program: A Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence.

Dr. Tim Redman made the motion to approve the proposed certificate program. Dr. Jennifer Holmes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. 75 HOUR RULE

Dr. Cy Cantrell discussed the proposal: “To reduce the stated MINIMUM number of hours required to earn a PhD at UT Dallas from 90 to 75.” This proposal has been previously approved by Graduate Council. Dr. Tim Redman
discussed that the School of Arts and Humanities still believes 90 hours to be correct. Dr. Cantrell pointed out that the reduction is the minimum.

Dr. Cy Cantrell made the motion to approve the proposal. Dr. Jennifer Holmes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. UNDERGRADUATE SUSPENSION AND PROBATION POLICY

Dr. Redman moved to amend the wording of the Undergraduate Probation and Suspension Policy as approved for the catalog in the Senate meeting of November 19, 2008, as follows:

Scholastic Status

A student is required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain academically eligible to enroll for subsequent semesters. Only grades received in UT Dallas classes are used to compute the GPA while transfer credit from other institutions accepted by the University is calculated in the number of hours required for graduation. Scholastic status is determined at the end of each academic semester. While grade point averages may change within a semester (e.g., finishing a class where a student previously had a grade of incomplete), scholastic status remains the same until the next grade reporting period.

Scholastic Probation

All students who show an overall cumulative grade point deficiency, defined as a cumulative UT Dallas grade point average (GPA) below a "C" or 2.00 on a 4.00 scale, are placed on scholastic probation automatically by notation of such status on their academic record. Associate Deans of Undergraduate Education may also place students within their academic units on academic probation for failing to maintain at least a 2.00 GPA in the major and related courses, independent of the overall GPA.

Grade point deficiencies incurred at UT Dallas must be removed through additional course work at UT Dallas. Grade points earned at other institutions are not used in computing the GPA and may not be used to remove a grade point deficiency.

Students on scholastic probation must meet with an academic advisor prior to registration. Such students may register for a maximum of 14 semester credit hours, must earn a semester 2.20 GPA, and may not drop or withdraw from classes. Violation of these requirements will result in further academic penalties. Students whose performance results in scholastic probation who have already pre-registered for more than 14 hours in the upcoming probationary semester will have their schedules reduced to 14 hours; students should immediately consult with their academic advisor about the courses to be dropped. An Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education may impose additional probationary restrictions on students within their academic unit. Removal from probation is reflected on the student transcript.

Academic Warning

Failure to meet the terms of scholastic probation will result in the issuance of an academic warning. During a warning semester, students must meet the same academic requirements as a probationary semester. Failure to meet these requirements results in automatic
suspension from UTD for a period of at least one long academic semester. Meeting the 
probationary requirements during a warning semester entitles the student to a one-semester 
continuance of the warning status.

Students on academic warning status who elevate their cumulative GPA to a 2.00 or higher 
regain their ‘good academic standing’ status. However, should their cumulative GPA drop 
below a 2.00 again, they immediately are placed on academic warning and must meet the 
probationary requirements imposed or receive suspension.

Students who leave the University on scholastic probation or academic warning will be 
readmitted with the same status, even if they have attended another institution in the 
interim. If a student withdraws from the University while on scholastic probation or academic 
warning, and if this action results in an additional grade point deficiency, the student has 
failed to meet the minimum requirements for removal of scholastic restrictions and further 
penalties will be imposed. A probationary student would move to academic warning while 
academic warning status would change to suspension.

Scholastic Suspension

A student is automatically placed on scholastic suspension by the University for failure to 
meet the terms of an academic warning semester. A student who is under scholastic 
suspension may not enroll in, audit, or visit a class unless readmitted as described below. 
Students who have already pre-registered for classes are automatically dropped from all 
classes. Notice of this scholastic suspension will show on the student’s transcript.

Students in a major who are placed on an initial one-semester scholastic suspension by the 
University may be readmitted only by submitting a readmission petition to the Associate 
Dean of Undergraduate Education for their academic unit. Non-degree-seeking students and 
students with undeclared majors who are placed on suspension for the first time may be 
readmitted only by the permission of the Dean of Undergraduate Education. Students thus 
readmitted may be subject to additional probationary conditions placed upon them by an 
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education.

Students placed on scholastic suspension for a second or subsequent time may apply for 
reinstatement to the University after having not attended UT Dallas for a minimum of 12 
months. Such students may be readmitted only by petition of the Associate Dean of 
Undergraduate Education for their academic unit, to the Dean of Undergraduate Education A 
student who reenters the University after scholastic suspension will reenter on academic 
warning.

NOTE: If, following academic suspension, a student petitioning for re-admission also wishes 
to change majors, the student must complete the “Change of Major Form” prior to 
petitioning for re-admission to the University (See “Major Change,” for details.) If the 
Change of Major is approved the receiving Associate Dean will determine the validity of the 
re-admission petition.

Dr. Scotch seconded the motion. The motion carried
13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Cy Cantrell and seconded by Dr. Tim Redman to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wildenthal adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: [Signature]
Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Faculty

DATE: 22 APR 09