ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
February 16, 2005

PRESENT: Sheila Gutierrez Amin de Pineres, Kurt Beron, Gail Breen, Cy Cantrell, R.
Chandrasekaran, Kevin Curtin, G. R. Dattatreya, Gopal Gupta, Jennifer Holmes, Marilyn
Kaplan, Robert Kieschnick, Murray Leaf, Sumit Majumdar, Robert Marsh, Robert
Nelsen, Shun-Chen Niu, Simeon Ntafos, Joseph Picken, Liz Salter, Richard Scotch,
Gerald Soliday,

ABSENT: James Bartlett, Tom Brikowski, Lawrence Cauller, Greg Dieckmann, Juan
Gonzalez, Stephen Levene, Matthew Leybourne, Homer Montgomery, R. Natarajan,
Alice O’Toole, Tim Redman, Thomas Riccio, S. Venkatesan, S. Q. Zheng

VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Abby Kratz, Iris Kwong, Laura Rashedi, Lucas Shelton,
Larry Terry

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order. He announced that President Daniel will
probably be on campus several times during the Spring semester. The starting date will
be June 1st. He probably will be on campus for some of the budget hearings in March.
There will also be many phone calls to help him come up to speed before he officially
arrives.

Dr. Jenifer announced that his official retirement will be August 31st. He will be in his
office in the Management Building after Dr. Daniel arrives. He stated that he was proud
of the faculty and how they handled the search.

The budget process will be going on, even without Dr. Daniel officially here. The
overall state budget looks okay, no major deficits.

Senator Shapiro has sponsored a bill in the Legislature to lift the restrictions that are in
the statute that created UTD as a four year institution; i.e., enrollment cap on freshmen
and sophomores along with other items that confine our growth.
A question was asked about the new buildings, i.e., the one being built and the one that was purchased. Provost Wildenthal indicated that Physics and Geosciences would be moving to the building purchased on Waterview Parkway.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported that he has been appointed to the Coordinating Board Graduate Education Advisory Committee. He will be one of the few regular faculty members. This committee will review all new Ph.D. programs and many existing programs. New programs will be much harder to get approved.

The charge for the Academic Integrity Committee will be on the agenda for next month. Some students have posted on the web advertising for someone to write their computer programs for them for their assigned classes. Academic dishonesty remains a real problem.

Course packets and book orders should be submitted to both the Barnes & Nobles campus bookstore and the Off-Campus bookstore; an alternative is to also submit them to the print shop. This resolution will be communicated from the Provost to the faculty through the Deans.

In 1998, we promised SACS to have a collection of all syllabi. In subsequent discussions, the Senate decided it was easiest to have electronic copies. Dean Coleman’s office is providing a location for the syllabi, and faculty just need to get the information to his office. If a syllabus is already on a faculty’s web site, just send the link to Dean Coleman’s office so that it can be put on the appropriate site. There are over 1000 classes for the Spring and, currently, only 191 syllabi are on this site. If we don’t do this now, we may have further hassles with SACS when they are here in about three years.

Dr. Leaf presented the signage proposal to the Deans and Directors. It was not met enthusiastically, and there was a suggestion made that we should have a consultant come look at the campus and prepare a proposal. The desire was expressed for full names instead of the two letters of each building. Each Dean is supposed to poll their faculty at
their next faculty meeting. Dr. Jenifer indicated that the signage problem will be resolved within the next few months.

The charge on the Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects was approved by System.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC) REPORT

The Faculty Advisory Council had its presentation before the Board of Regents at their February meeting. Dr. Bartlett presented the proposal for the U. T. System to provide $50,000 for funding faculty research proposals that have been approved for funding by an external source, but require interim support for the ongoing research project until the award is received. The Regents were very favorable to this program.

Speaker Nelsen spoke regarding a proposal to create a database on faculty members’ research to foster collaboration among U. T. System faculty, and it was also looked on very highly. The Regents asked the Chancellor to implement it and report back by May.

The third presentation was regarding the nursing shortage and the FAC’s recommendation to promote it.

U. T. Arlington is hosting a conference on advising on February 22nd, and anyone that may wish to attend should contact the Provost’s Office.

The FAC will be working on the following programs: mentoring program, revised compacts, strategic planning, hiring policies for administrators, revisiting receivership issues now that there is a new head of the Office of General Counsel. The FAC has also recommended a definition for faculty to be used for the purpose of being eligible to be appointed to committees. This definition is: “People below the level of dean including non-rotating, non-elected chairs.” If such a definition is accepted, chairs who were elected to the position would qualify to serve on committees. This issue will be discussed by the Committee on Committees.

5. GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT

This program is being offered by the School of Social Sciences for government officials and those that need certificates. CEP reviews and recommends on approval for all programs awarding academic credit for certificate programs. The new courses will be required for an MPA also. This will become catalog copy.
A motion was made and seconded to approve this new certificate program. The motion passed.

6. CQ REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC FILES

The Committee on Qualification is requesting that all files be submitted electronically for review and new hires. This will take some coordinating and refinement to make it happen with the possibility that some items will have to be scanned. An RFP has been issued for servers and software ($300,000 - $500,000) for student files, but, according to the Office of Security, they say this new method of using electronic files is doable and can be set up with password protection.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. The motion passed.

7. SYSTEM ASSESSMENT PROJECT

The College Learning Assessment test has been administered at UTD. Our students are showing in the 90th percentile over all. Dean Coleman spoke to the project and to the results that have been shown from 102 Freshmen in the Fall. We will be testing 100 native Seniors this Spring. These students were distributed over the entire campus. The test results show what we already knew, that we have really smart students. We were paying each of the students $50 to take these tests. The Rand Corporation is still modifying the tests. Several of the schools have been in touch with us to use our report as a model.

8. ANNUAL GRADING REPORT

The annual grading report was given by Dean Coleman. He commented that this is the 5th annual report. Speaker Nelsen mentioned that when the plus and minuses were added to the grading system several years ago, there was some concern about how it would affect the overall grades. That hasn’t proven to be a problem.

With the new drop policy, overall grades have only dropped by .05. It has been noted that full-time students have significantly better GPA’s than part-time students. Dr. Wildenthal stated that “part-time” should not be interpreted to mean community college students.
9. **ELECTION COMMITTEE AND CALENDAR**

A motion was made to appoint Surya Janakiraman to the Election Committee. The motion was seconded and it passed.

There was discussion about the Election Calendar, and it was suggested that the deadline dates for the ballots to be back to the Academic Governance Office should be March 18th instead of the 11th because the week of March 7 – 11 is Spring Break. Also, the announcement of the results would then be moved to March 25th. A motion was made to approve the calendar with the amendments as listed above. The motion passed. Dr. Jenifer recommended that the current Senators go back to their departments and encourage their fellow faculty members to run for the Senate. It will be important for the faculty to show President Daniel that we do have a strong faculty governance.

10. **SACS PRESENTATION**

Abby Kratz attended the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools meeting in December and brought back to UTD the information on how the reaccreditation will be handled this time around. The process will be starting soon with the final report and visit in Spring 2008.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen
Academic Governance Secretary