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
January 16, 2008


ABSENT: Titu Andreescu, Gail Breen, Duane Buhrmester, John Burr, Kevin Curtin, Gregory Earle, Warren Goux, Surya Janakiraman, Nils Roemer

VISITORS: Austin Cunningham, Jim Gary, Richard Huckaba, Abby Kratz, Dennis Kratz, Sherry Marek, Rafael Martin, Robert Nelsen, Brenda Seifi

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Daniel called the meeting to order. He discussed the cap the UT System Regents have placed on tuition. Work is being done to recalculate the impact of the tuition cap. The cap is limited to resident undergraduate students. It does not affect non-resident student’s tuition. Applications and admissions are up 25%.

Dr. Daniel announced that in February, he and Dr. Wildenthal plan to have school by school meetings to provide an open dialog.

Dr. Daniel asked if there were any questions. There was a question concerning flat enrollment. In 2003 new admits flattened but the retention was high. Now student credit hours are up 2-2 1/2%. The graduate student application process has improved and the auto processing of undergraduate applications has been implemented. He stated that things are turning around with a 25% increase in applications and admissions.

There was a question regarding the search for the Vice President for Enrollment Management. Dr. Daniel reported that the last meeting with the candidates has been held. Dr. Daniel is speaking with the search consultant and expects to name the new vice president in a month. He was very pleased with all three finalists, great models of Best Practices.

Another question concerned hiring of new faculty. Dr. Robert Nelsen reported that there is a moratorium until the new budget is settled. Some interviews for fall
hiring are taking place, they are limited in scope. Dr. Daniel stated this would be a
good topic for the school to school meetings that will take place in February.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last senate meeting held on
October 17, 2007. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Leaf discussed Marketplace, a student run website for course proposals. At the last meeting of
the Senate, this item was tabled to this meeting. In Council, however, in view of the full agenda
and the fact that no new policies were needed, Dr. Leaf was directed to take the matter directly to
the entire faculty. He will do so.

The Academic Council has decided that it should be our policy to have a Senate meeting in
November meeting. If the normal meeting time in the third week is in conflict with the holiday or
end of term schedule, it the meeting should be moved to either the fourth week of November or
the first week in December.

The Academic Council discussed the need to assure that our committee appointments include
representatives of people with disabilities, but that we do so in a way that does put the Senate in
the position of designating people as disabled for this purpose if they might not wish to be so
designated. The Parking and Transportation Committee charge, as amended, has approached the
problem by including the campus disability officer ex officio. The opinion of the Council was that
the appropriate way to follow through for other committees is to have the Committee on
Committees also consult with the Disabilities Officer for recommendations. The Committee on
Committee’s by- laws will be amended accordingly.

Dean Coleman has prepared a third report on student progress in the calculus courses. This was
discussed in the Academic Council, but has not been placed on today’s agenda. There has been
extensive discussion of its implications and possible recommendations among concerned faculty,
and this will be the focus of the Quality Enhancement Plan for the SACS reaccreditation.
Accordingly, the report will come to the Senate in the context of the QEP, at next month’s
meeting.

One senior lecturer member of the Senate has had to resign because of a teaching conflict. We are
looking for the electoral returns to see who the replacement should be.

The Governance Satisfaction survey has been circulated and the returns tabulated. There were just
43 respondants. We therefore did not get the broad-based assessment we had hoped for.
Responses vary widely, but there does not appear to be a notable level of dissatisfaction. Dr. Leaf
will provide an analysis for the next meeting.

Dr. Leaf asked if there were any questions. Dr. Nelsen responded to the question on the results of
our SACS Compliance Certification Report review. He reported that UT Dallas had only seven
areas of non-compliance out of eighty-five possible. Two areas involved the decision not to post
administration and faculty reviews (they will be available via a secure site during our on site visit).
One involved faculty credentialing. Six faculty out a thousand were held by SACS to be
insufficiently qualified for what they were teaching. Three have been terminated; the others are
being disputed with SACS. The credentialing issue is being reviewed to resolve the non
compliance issue. Fast track and FTE headcount issues are also being addressed. Dr. Nelsen
thanked the program heads and the individual faculty members for their good work with the
preparation of the Compliance Certification report.
Dr. Daniel thanked Dr. Nelsen and the SACS committee for their work on our SACS Reaccreditation.

Dr. Nelsen also responded to the question regarding Program Reviews. Dr. Nelsen reported that three are taking place.

4. FAC REPORT

Dr. Leaf briefly described the FAC efforts to create a faculty regent, on the same model as the student regent. Since this is not just a matter for the UT System, but involves getting a state law passed that will apply to all systems in the state, it has involved getting support from other systems, through the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.

Dr. Leaf also described efforts to mobilize faculty in other systems to express their concern to the Senate and House committees concerned with higher education regarding the effects of the increasing list of laws that have give power to write rules and impose sanctions to a number of separate federal bureaucracies, which have been thereby empowered to impose very severe sanctions for what can be very minor compliance failures.

Dr. Leaf discussed the policy on recorded courses. If a course is recorded, it is the faculty member who owns the course. Dr. Leaf suggests that the policy should go to the UT System attorneys.

5. FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR UT DALLAS CHILD CARE FACILITY

Mr. Rafael Martin presented the Joint Subcommittee of the Staff Council for the Child Care Facility proposal for a new needs assessment for a child care facility at UT Dallas. The proposal has been submitted to Dr. Daniel through Dr. Magaly Spector, Vice President for Diversity/Community Engagement. Mr. Martin would like the Senate’s endorsement of the proposal. A motion to endorse the proposal was made by Dr. Chandrasekaran and seconded by Dr. Liz Salter. The motion carried.

6. WEBCT AND PEOPLESOFT UPDATES

Dr. Jim Gary discussed WebCT and PeopleSoft, focusing mainly on WebCT. He gave a short history of WebCT at UT Dallas and discussed the recent problems, the latest due to an issue with software. Although the collapses of the system in October and again just as class was opening this semester were serious, the good news is that they were wholly unrelated to one another. We are not make the same mistakes twice. But there clearly is a problem with properly estimating demand, prioritizing needs, and preparing for them with appropriate levels of investment. Dr. Gary noted that there currently is no chair for the Information Resources Security, Planning and Policy Committee. One needs to be appointed. Dr. Daniel noted that since he arrived he has been concerned with the inadequacy
of our infrastructure, and this is an important part of it, but we need faculty feedback to get the priorities established.

It was agreed that the Distance Learning Committee would take charge of evaluating WebCT and considering the possibility of alternatives to it in drawing up a statement of priorities for IR support for classroom activities, and the IR Security and Planning Committee would take charge of putting this in the larger context of our other IR needs. The two committees would communicate with one another as the discussions proceeded. A chair will promptly be designated for the IR committee. The IR committee membership would be strengthened with additional appointees from our CS faculty if necessary to consider the technical aspects of the problem.

7. PROPOSAL FOR M.S. IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Dr. Cantrell introduced the proposal for an M.S. in Supply Chain Management for the CEP. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Tim Redman and seconded by Jennifer Holmes. The motion carried.

8. CERTIFICATE: HOMELAND SECURITY

Dr. Cantrell introduced the Academic Certificate Program for Homeland Security and Homeland Security Assessment for the CEP. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Tim Redman and seconded by Dr. Chandrasekaran. The motion carried.

9. PROPOSAL FOR M.S. IN FINANCE

Dr. Cantrell introduced the proposal for an MS in Finance for the CEP. Dr. Kieschnick discussed the proposal. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Tim Redman and seconded by Jennifer Holmes. The motion carried.

10. PROPOSAL FOR B.A. IN EMERGING MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Cantrell introduced the proposal for a BA in Emerging Media and Communications in for the CEP. Dean Dennis Kratz described the proposal in the context of the larger aims of the School of Arts and Humanities. Dr. Cantrell moved to approve the proposal. Dr. Redman seconded. The motion carried.

11. ESL ISSUES AND PROPOSAL

Dr. Cunningham presented the proposal to establish a certified program of instruction in English as a Second Language for our graduate students. He discussed the criteria for such accreditation and how UTD would build the program to meet them in the context of our other concerns and programs. President Daniel expressed his willingness to move forward with the program if the faculty felt this was a sufficiently high-priority use of resources. Is it anywhere between useful and essential as a competitive tool to attract the very best students? Dr. Leaf called for a motion to form an accredited program in
Academic Senate Meeting
January 16, 2008

English as a Second Language for our graduate students. Tim Redman made the motion. Cy Cantrell seconded. The motion carried.

Dr Daniel urged anyone with objections to provide them. There were no objections.

Dr. Chandrasekaran wished that the minutes would reflect that there be rigorous pre- and post-program measures in place to assure that the program is working as intended. We should also assure that faculty responsible for admissions do not fail to require the program for students who need it, for the sake of increasing their enrollments in the short term.

12. REVIEW OF FIRST FORTY PAGES

Dr. Cantrell introduced the first forty pages of the graduate catalog, stressing the amount of effort that the CEP and the office of the graduate dean had devoted to it with the aim of making it more readable and user-friendly. Speaker Leaf asked if there were any new policy issues introduced in this copy that has not previously been approved by the Senate. There are no new policies; the most important change is the initiation of plus and minus grading, but the Senate has already approved it. Tim Redman moved to approve the graduate catalog revisions to the first forty pages, including the section on the amount of transfer credit awarded to graduate students. Jennifer Holmes seconded. The motion carried.

13. REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL SECTIONS IN GRADUATE CATALOG

Dr. Cunningham discussed the school sections in the graduate catalog. A motion to approve the schools sections as discussed and approved by CEP with subsequently discovered typographical errors removed was made by Tim Redman. Cy Cantrell seconded. The motion carried.

14. DELETION OF EXCEPTIONS TO FAST TRACK

Responding to objections from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools limiting transfer credit into graduate programs, the graduate dean and CEP have proposed to delete the exception to the fast track requirements in the current catalog as circulated. Tim Redman moved to delete the exception. John Hoffman seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: ______________________________                     DATE: _____________
Speaker of the Faculty