ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
January 26, 2005


ABSENT: Gail Breen, Tom Brikowski, Greg Dieckmann, Gopal Gupta, Marilyn Kaplan, Stephen Levene, Matthew Leybourne, Sumit Majumdar, Nirup Menon, Alice O'Toole, Gerald Soliday, S. Q. Zheng

VISITORS: Claire Occhipinti

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker, Dr. Robert Nelsen, called the meeting to order in the absence of Dr. Jenifer.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 19, 2004 and November 3, 2004. The motion passed.

3. SPEAKER'S REPORT

Speaker Nelsen reported that the Board of Regents will be announcing our new President at their meeting on February 10th. The new President will then be on campus on the 11th and will be introduced at an open forum at 2:00 by President Jenifer. The Speaker of the Faculty, Chair of the Staff Council, and the Student Body President are to give a one minute welcome speech. He asked for input from the Senate members on what to say.

Dr. Barton had actually withdrawn his name from consideration the first week of January but the System offices had not informed anyone. We were told that the System is not obliged to announce withdrawals. It appears that the urgency of getting a president
appointed soon overrides previously expressed positions that there had to be multiple finalists. In general, the end result looks good, but the process leaves a lot to be desired.

The Tsunami relief efforts have raised approximately $2,000. We will continue to collect donations until Friday, January 28th.

Complaints have begun again about the UTD bookstore--this time about course packets. The bookstore has been slow and has done a poor job of putting the packets together plus has failed to get permission to photocopy material that the Off Campus Bookstore was able to obtain. Dr. Nelsen asked the faculty members to notify him if they have had problems with the on campus bookstore.

Commencement ceremonies continue to outgrow the only facility we have to accommodate them. We can either stop having them on campus, or we can move to four ceremonies, with one perhaps on Friday evening. This will give us even less time to do grading. In the meantime, we have reduced the number of tickets for each graduate to six. Dr. Nelsen indicated that the graduates would probably be complaining.

The students have allotted $3,000 to buy a mace, and one will be purchased.

At graduation, the students and faculty will be presenting a going away gift to the President. Anyone with ideas/suggestions should contact Dr. Nelsen. A committee was formed consisting of Dr. Nelsen, Kevin Curtin, Robert Kieschnick, and Homer Montgomery to decide on the gift.

There are new procedures for accounting effort reporting now that we have hit $25 M. There is a presentation on the web showing this new procedure.

Dr. Nelsen handed out a spread sheet about the growth rate at UTD comparing last semester to the current semester.

Course syllabi still are not being put on the web for all classes. Dean Coleman's office has received only 191 syllabi for the 1000+ classes that are available.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Faculty Advisory Council will present before the Regents on February 10th three proposals. Dr. Bartlett will be presenting a request for funding promising grant proposals that did not get funded on a competitive basis for up to one year. This is an
idea from Georgia Tech. System has set aside start up money for new hires’ start-ups, so it is expected that they will consider funding this also.

Terese Verklain will give a presentation on the nursing shortage in Texas and the huge unhappiness among nursing faculty.

Dr. Nelsen will present a proposal for a series of data bases at System level; one for information about graduating seniors so that they can be recruited to graduate programs and one that will contain information about researchers and research grants so that people can find potential collaborators across the U. T. System. Also, System will be asked to establish an on-line chat room where people can post requests for information or collaboration and a google-like functional data base (which could actually be purchased from Google) that would link all campuses web pages.

System will be doing a seminar in March for advising at the Arlington campus and each campus will send reps. If any faculty members would be interested, please let Dr. Nelsen know.

The FAC is considering writing up a model policy for transferring from one department or school to another. Dr. Nelsen asked if any one was interested in such a policy. The response was negative.

5. RETIREMENT MANAGER PRESENTATION

Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) participants have been stuck with one vendor in the past and it was very hard to make changes. It was also difficult to see what the account balances were. U. T. System has changed all of this and has given us some additional benefits in what is called the Retirement Manager. Claire Occhipinti gave the Senators a presentation on this new program that is interactive online and enables the participants to move money between funds and look up their accounts, etc. This new program is projected to come on line March 1st. It is already working on several other campuses.

6. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

There is a proposed revision to Title V, Chapter 49 on scholastic violations. Academic dishonesty has become an increasingly larger problem.
One problem that arose last year was students plagiarizing on ungraded work. The Dean of Students ruled that under current policy nothing could be done, hence the change that is proposed for the first sentence of Section 49.06 in Title V. The Senate voted in favor of changing the policy. Also handed out was a form for reporting dishonesty. That form is also now available online. The Senate will, in the future, receive a yearly report on the cheating, plagiarism, and other disciplinary issues. A lawyer has been hired as UTD's first Judicial Officer and will handle cases of academic dishonesty.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen
Academic Governance Secretary