ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING  
July 21, 2004

PRESENT: James Bartlett, Doug Benn, Kurt Beron, Jennifer Holmes, Franklyn Jenifer, Marilyn Kaplan, Robert Kieschnick, Stephen Levene, Nirup Menon, Homer Montgomery, R. Natarajan, Robert Nelsen, Simeon Ntafos, Alice O’Toole, Richard Scotch


VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Abby Kratz, Larry Terry, John Wiorkowski

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order and announced that the Coordinating Board had just approved four building projects: the new building for Engineering and Natural Sciences; the former Grubbe Building, renovation of Founders, and the purchase of a building located near the Southwestern Medical Center for the Center for Brain Health.

New degree programs have been approved by the Coordinating Board: Ph.D. in Public Affairs, Ph.D. in Cognition and Neuroscience; Ph.D. in Communication Sciences; Ph.D. and M.S. in Psychological Sciences. UTD has been disadvantaged by the old Carnegie Classifications for not having enough Ph.D. programs in the past, so that will help considerably.

Dr. Darrelene Rachavong has been appointed the interim Vice President for Student Affairs. The search to replace Dr. Sias will not take place until after the new President has been appointed.

Dr. Jenifer also mentioned that the Presidents have met with the Chancellor and he announced that they will discontinue the Chancellor’s Council Teacher of the Year award. Instead, they are making it the curriculum person of the year.

The Presidential Search is gearing up for an active Fall.
Dr. Terry announced that there will be a workshop on recruiting faculty August 10th at Arlington. Five representatives from UTD are to attend. There will also be five from the FAC who will attend. Anyone who would be interested in attending this should let Dr. Terry or Dr. Nelsen know.

Dr. Jenifer said that the new chair of the Finance Committee of the Legislature is very much into Accountability. He said U. T. Dallas is very land heavy. He thinks we don’t need any more funding if we have so much land. We should sell some of it.

The president also discussed tuition increases and the effects of a 5% cut in the budget; Austin will definitely raise tuition, excellence funding may come back but in what form? E.g., UT-El Paso has re-defined “research”. Need to include UT-Arlington, UT-SW in everything – emphasis on consortium rather than flagship.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of June 16, 2004. The motion carried.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported that the Indirect Cost committee is busy at work considering the change in reimbursement from 50% to 100%. A recommendation was made to be able to use some of these funds for improving the situation for graduate students.

Workload Committee has not met yet, but Dr. Leaf is getting the committee together soon. Hopefully a final report will be submitted by the end of the Fall term.

WAG/Strategic Planning Committee is meeting every Friday. They are working with new hires, new programs, new facilities and most importantly, the viable cohorts in the programs (how many majors and how many faculty members would be needed?). Individual Schools have each done their own response:

The Presidential Search Committee will be meeting on July 29th to narrow the candidates. The projected final meeting will be October 6th. After this meeting the committee will be making their recommendations to the Board of Regents. The committee is in the process
of reviewing candidates' recommendations. The goal is to have a replacement right after the first of the year.

Enrollment for fall as of the 21st shows 4.1% up from last year and the SCH up 6.71 from last year.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Regents' Rules revisions are out for review. The committee has finished their job in this revisions process. All significant changes by FAC have been accepted except:
1) upward review of all administrators and written report of review was rejected; 2) term tenure for the Tyler Health Center was rejected; 3) creation of committee for closing departments was rejected.

New program for ORP is about to be unveiled. There will be the ability to transfer funds monthly from one company to another online. Hopefully we will be able to have a presentation from HR regarding these changes. There was some discussion about the possibility of adding more companies to the ORP list.

5. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Committees has made their recommendations to the various Senate and University-wide committees and the list was distributed for review. A motion was made to approve all the recommendations. The motion was seconded and it passed.

6. CANDIDATES FOR SUMMER GRADUATION

Dr. Nelsen, Speaker of the Faculty brought forward the following motions for approving the candidates for summer graduation:

Undergraduate: 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 graduates 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.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Graduate: 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 graduates received are consistent with the standards for credit prescribed by this University.

The motion was seconded and passed.

7. NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE) 2003 RESULTS

Dr. Nelsen presented the NSSE survey results. It is currently being used as part of the accountability program as a performance measure. It is a Benchmarking report comparing UTD to U. T. System. It measures a cross section of the 1st year and senior students on a 1 – 100 scale of satisfaction. It is sent out to a random percentage at each school and the students return it. UTD consistently has a very low return rate. The higher our return rates the better off we are.

8. FACULTY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Dr. James Bartlett presented the results of the faculty satisfaction survey. He indicated that the responses cannot be considered statistically significant but can indicate trends and feelings of 45% of the faculty. UTD’s response rate was 44.7%. It is a guide to the future regarding merit raises, salary compression, and effective communication. The presentation will be put on UTD’s web page next week.
9. POLICY MEMORANDUM 79-III.21-32 REVISIONS

The changes to the Bylaws for the Academic Senate were approved at last month’s meeting. According to the Bylaws, any changes to the Bylaws must be reviewed at two consecutive meetings of the Senate. This is the second meeting. A motion was made to approve the proposed revisions to the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and it passed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen, Academic Governance Secretary