ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
June 16, 2004


VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Victoria Neave, Larry Terry

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

The meeting was called to order by President Jenifer. He talked about the Coordinating Board meeting in July. We have four buildings up for approval. We also have several degree program proposals up for review.

UTD has the highest faculty salaries in the State of Texas, except for U. T. Austin.

It looks like a consortia/collaborative effort is going to be the strategy instead making any one institution a Tier One institution. If this happens, we will have to work harder to attract a Tier One President. No money – no tier one status.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of May 19, 2004. The motion carried.
3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported that the Signage committee is going forward with its work to get signs on campus. The committee will be making their recommendations directly to the President.

The 3+3+1 workload committee chaired by Murray Leaf is working. Members include Deans Helms, Murdoch, and Ferraris. The faculty members will be Robert Kieschnick, Dean Sherry, and Marion Underwood.

Committee on Committees will be meeting in July to make their recommendations for Senate and University Wide Committees.

Committee on Mentoring: Pat Michaelson was going to be appointed to this committee but will be unavailable, so Cynthia Haynes will be replacing her as the representative from Arts and Humanities.

The Presidential Search continues but has been slowed down after discussion with Regents’ Chair Huffines. The Regents feel the pool is too shallow. The next meeting is scheduled for July 29th; however, Vice Chancellor Sullivan and others are flying to various places to encourage new applicants. On campus interviews will probably be in October/November. Projection is to have finalists in December.

The Senate response to the WAG Report was discussed in the Council meeting. The general feeling is that the WAG committee did not understand who we are. It was the recommendation of the Council to create a response, and this response should be done as soon as possible, but at least by the end of August. The committee is being formed and will begin their work as soon as possible. The committee will consist of co-chairs Dr. Wildenthal and Dr. Nelsen. Other committee members will include: Deans of all schools, Brian Berry and Pam Brandwein from Social Sciences, Tim Redman from A&H; Bob Serfling and Juan Gonzales from NSM; Bob Wallace and R. Chandrasakaran from EE/CS; Suresh Radhakrishnan and Katherine Stecke from Management; Stephen Lomber and Anu Sharma from Behavioral and Brain Sciences. It will review the University as a whole and create general ten year strategic plan and will be more comprehensive then the President’s COMPACT. It will deal also with broad-based support to address the views of individual departments. The Committee will have the report ready to present to the new President when she/he is being interviewed.
The goal of improving graduate student recruiting and retention has been forwarded to the Graduate Research Council and the Graduate Dean’s Council. These groups will be meeting jointly to make recommendations on supplemental grants, summer programs, etc. This response will be due by the end of August and will be incorporated into the WAG Response.

The Legislature has changed things and regarding the Disbursement of Indirect Costs, the Graduate Deans Council and Dr. Feng’s committee will also be meeting to make a recommendation to the President. The recommendation will also go to the Senate and the System for approval. This report will also be sent to the WAG Response Committee.

Senate Bill 1563 established customer service standards and directed the Legislative Budget Board to gather information on even years about customer satisfaction; i.e., students, through surveys. UT System, as part of the accountability program, has begun the work on a survey of graduates. Our hopes are, by participating in this, that we might put off the assessment in majors. We are currently relying on the NESSE, which is insufficient.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

The Faculty Satisfaction Survey will be on the agenda for next month. Dr. Bartlett will do a power point presentation then. All 1400 written comments have been redacted and categorized. This report will be sent to the Core Committee for the Support of Women and Minorities.

There is a Hiring Seminar in Arlington on August 10th. With the deregulation of tuition, this brings us a once in a lifetime opportunity to hire new faculty. The WAG report says the deans’ structures are strong, but department practices are weak; hence the seminar on best practices seminars on hiring and other items. All Department Heads will have to undergo training. The President will be appointing people to attend.

Leer Money will be available for start-up packages for various faculty. AUF money will be moved over to this use.

The Telecampus is currently losing money. The funding has been coming from AUF funds. The classes are always filled, but there are not enough classes. They will begin hiring Adjuncts to teach these classes. All the telecampus courses must go through the regular review and oversight procedures on a campus that traditional courses go through.
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There will be additional compensation for teaching above the regular workload. UTD is not participating very much at all. Telecampus is collecting its own fees.

A System pornography task force met and made the following recommendations: 1) if it’s illegal, i.e., child pornography, it can result in termination; 2) if it creates a hostile work environment, it is grounds for termination; 3) undue use of state assets (time management issue, when someone becomes unproductive) can result in discipline.

5. MARKET OF IDEAS WEBSITE FOR NEW CLASSES

Dr. Leaf has presented a new idea for a website for new classes that faculty would like to teach that students can sign up for in advance. His reasoning is that we have been good at creating interdisciplinary courses, and we need to get back to that. A recommendation was made to broaden the website to include courses, not just interdisciplinary courses, that haven’t been taught in a few years. Dr. Nelsen asked for a sense of the Senate to ask the Undergraduate and Graduate Deans Councils to coordinate and do this. The Senate agreed that it was a good conceptual idea and that the two councils should work on it.

6. ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE CAUCUS
(REVISIONS TO POLICY MEMORANDUM 79-III.21-32)

The Senior Lecturers want to have their election at the same time as the general faculty have their election, so the Policy Memorandum has been changed to reflect this revised procedure.

The second change was to change the election procedure for the caucus using the plurality system. This amendment reflects that procedural change.

A motion was made and seconded to make the recommended changes. The motion passed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen, Academic Governance Secretary