ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
March 17, 2004


VISITORS: Bobby Alexander, Priscilla Beadle, James Murdoch, Joe Picken (for Marilyn Kaplan), Ellen Safley, Larry Terry

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order and gave the following reports.

The COMPACT report will be posted on the UTD web site and anyone that wants to read it and send comments about it is welcomed to do so. Comments can be sent to President Jenifer or the Chancellor.

The WAG (Washington Advisory Group) report has been completed but has not been presented to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents yet. That will be done at the May meeting of the Board of Regents. Sources say that UTD will be pleased with the report.

The Chancellor wants to see more collaborative efforts between the various components. On Friday, March 19th, an agreement will be signed between UTD, UTHSWMC and U. T. Arlington with Sandia Labs.

Dr. Mary Sias has submitted her resignation to assume the Presidency of Kentucky State University. She will be leaving the University this spring and Dr. Jenifer is in the process of naming her replacement on an interim basis.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 21, 2004. The motion carried.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

   A. The Presidential Search Committee has met one time, at which meeting it was set that we would receive the draft of the advertisement by email and be able to respond. The draft just came the first week of March. Fortunately, we had already had some discussions on campus and made some suggestions. The UTD members of the search group met and developed an alternative wording, which Robert Nelsen discussed with V.C. Sullivan. We have responded to that with further suggestions and she has agreed to submit our wording to the search firm as the final version. The next meeting is March 22. We will discuss a description of desired qualities and qualifications drawn up by the search firm, Spencer Stuart.

   B. The committee on signage has met twice. We will develop a modular proposal for different sets of signs to meet different needs, in a priority order. The committee consists of myself, Peggy Attari (who developed the initial proposal in the Staff Council), Kathryn Evans (chair of the Facilities Committee), Joyce Crum (in Physical Plant, and an architect), Ron Biddle (Safety officer, representing the Safety Council), and Ryan Davidson (Student Government).

   C. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates has met. I don’t think there are any initiatives that will affect us. Don Brown, the past chair of the Coordinating Board, addressed the group about Closing the Gaps. Essentially, at this point it is an unfunded program, although in his view we are actually expanding according the plan. Having left the Coordinating Board, Dr. Brown is forming a non-governmental foundation to raise enough money to close the gap between what the legislature seems likely to supply and what is needed. What is needed is about 20 billion. Signals from the legislature in general are mixed but not good.
D. The question of faculty participation in drawing up the UT Dallas “Compact” with the UT System came up in the meeting of the Academic Council. No faculty members on the Council had been involved and we did not know of anyone who had been involved. Subsequently, at the meeting of the System Faculty Advisory Council, this came up in a general discussion with the Chancellor. The Chancellor was very clear that he would take the Compact from a campus as reflecting a faculty commitment. I have subsequently spoken to Dr. Jenifer, and read the document. The Chancellor had left open the manner of consultation to be set on each campus according to whatever system they already had in place for planning. Here, President Jenifer chose to do it through administrative channels: department heads, Deans and heads of departments. They were supposed to consult faculty as necessary, and you will know if you were consulted. In any case, however, the document is now on the web. I will send everyone the URL when I get it from Larry Redlinger.

E. Please remember to come to convocation. Let your Dean know, but also let the Governance Secretary know so we can list you in a Senate section of the program.

F. Results of the Senate election have been emailed out to the faculty. The breakdown of representation by schools is BBS 4, A&H 3, ECS 7, SOM 5, NS&M 8 and SS 6.

G. Everything else is on the agenda.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Robert Nelsen gave the following report from the Faculty Advisory Council. The FAC met with the Board of Regents in Brownsville at their February meeting and presented the following 4 proposals, all of which were received favorably:

A. Merit Raises. The Chancellor assumed that all merit raises underwent some sort of Peer Review and was surprised that they didn’t. He agreed from here on out that they should and that he would inform the Presidents of such. Therefore, in the future, peer review must be involved in merit raise decisions at the lowest organized departmental unit. The procedures for establishing this peer review process are to be decided locally on each campus, but the process must involve an elected committee.

B. Long Term Contracts. Following up on the new Regent Rule regarding the contracts for clinical faculty, the FAC proposed 3 year contracts for lecturers and medical clinicians as well. The need for stability in the lives of the faculty with
one year contracts and in the lives of students and patients was stressed. Discussion about the need for flexibility on the local level and the necessity for established review procedures ensued. The Regents seemed amenable to the presentation, but wanted more information about how similar institutions were handling short term contracts.

C. Cross Campus Collaborative Initiatives or CCCI. The FAC presented a proposal for grants up to one year for faculty members to go to another UT System component and collaborate there with a faculty member (or group of faculty) to produce a product such as a grant proposal or a patent, or to train or retrain on new equipment. Peer review of the proposal to receive a CCCI grant would take place on the System level, and System would set aside money to find a teaching replacement at the University from which the visiting professor would come. The idea was received with enthusiasm, and the Chancellor agreed to set up a CCCI program and to supply funds.

D. Tenure Retention for Part-Time Faculty. Regents Rules do not prevent the retention of Tenure if a faculty member for some reason decides to go part time after having received tenure; however, no procedures are in place regarding how to handle such a situation. Hence, the FAC outlined a system which would allow faculty to apply for up to three year part-time status. The time off could be used, for example, to take care of children or to take care of the elderly, but it could also be used in conjunction with SBIR and STTR grants which require that faculty be part time. Currently, approximately $47.5M are available from such grants and only $600,000 was awarded in Texas last year. The Regents and the Chancellor endorsed the idea, and said that because there were no Regents Rule against it, the policies for tenure for part-time should be established on the individual campuses.

Additional items under consideration by the FAC at its most recent meeting included new anti-pornography/computer regulations being instituted on campuses and the Accountability and Performance Report. Dr. Nelsen provided a list of the 130 measures for each member of the Senate. The full report will be available on the UT System web site.

Dr. Nelsen is also invited to attend a Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) meeting in Georgia in order to survey the new measures regarding curriculum.

The Office of Sponsored Projects will be undergoing a peer review process at all UT System component institutions.
5. **TUITION WAIVERS**

   This item was postponed to the April meeting because of conflicting information and the need for clarification.

6. **LIBRARY COMMITTEE – DISSERTATIONS**

   Ellen Safley attended the meeting on behalf of Larry Sall, Director of Libraries and explained the policy on shelving of the dissertations and the possibility of having the dissertations done in a digitized form. She explained that all the dissertations are now available electronically. Dr. Sall initially approached the Library Committee with the suggestion that dissertations should no longer continue to be shelved in bound form. The Library Committee said they thought it would be okay to discontinue the paper/bound copy. The Graduate Council, however, thought the matter should come before the Senate for discussion. The Academic Council agreed and the item is therefore on the agenda as discussion and to see if the Senate considers it a matter to take action on.

   Discussion ensued about the quality of digitization, the current cost of shelf space and related issues, including the treatment of Master’s papers.

   A motion was made and seconded that All dissertations will be submitted in traditional and digital form where possible.
   The motion passed.

   A second motion was made and seconded that “The Library shall retain the current copies of dissertations and continue to collect paper copies.” The motion passed.

7. **NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: BA IN ANTHROPOLOGY**

   Dr. James Murdoch presented the new BA in Anthropology program proposal. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the new degree program proposal. The motion passed.
8. REPORT ON SPECIAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENTS (SFDA)

Dr. Larry Terry presented the statistics on the SFDA's for 2003–2004 and then 2004-2005. Dr. Robert Nelsen thanked the administration for supporting the SFDA's. It was suggested that the topics that the faculty members proposed to work on be included in future reports.

9. MERIT INCREASES – ELECTED FACULTY COMMITTEE

Dr. Nelsen presented this topic since it was presented initially by the Faculty Advisory Committee. This procedure outlined above in Dr. Nelsen’s FAC report is only for merit the pool and does not include equity.

A discussion ensued about whether to refer the matter back to the various schools with regards to their bylaws or to wait for the official word from the Chancellor.

A motion was made and seconded to defer consideration pending receipt of a directive from the Chancellor.
The motion passed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen
Academic Governance Secretary