Academic Senate meeting
March 21, 2007

UNAPPROVED AND UNCORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have not been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are not official minutes.

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
March 21, 2007

PRESENT: Mark Anderson, Duane Buhrmester, Cy Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, Gregg Dieckmann, Jennifer Holmes, Marilyn Kaplan, Robert Kischnick, Murray Leaf, Dennis Miller, Homer Montgomery, Ramachandran Natarajan, Shun Chen Niu, Simeon Ntafos, Ravi Prakash, Beatrice Rasmussen, Brian Ratchford, Tim Redman, Young Ryu, Liz Salter, S. Venkatesan,

ABSENT: Poras Balsara, James Bartlett, Dinesh Bhatia, Gail Breen, Tom Brikowski, John Burr, Jeff DeJong, Santosh D’Mello, Juan Gonzalez, John Gooch, Warren Goux, Gopal Gupta, D.T. Huynh, Sumit Majumdar, William Pervin, Mary Urquhart,

VISITORS: Charlie Arnett, Priscilla Beadle, Michael Coleman, Richard Huckaba, Robert Nelsen, Hobson Wildenthal

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Provost Wildenthal called the meeting to order in President Daniel's absence.

His announcements included a visit on campus from the Peter Walker & Partners, landscape architecture group that has been contracted to create plans for the Campus Beautification Project.

Plans are moving ahead for the new student housing facility, Student Services Building and a new dining facility. Designs are being submitted by architects for consideration.

President Daniel met with the Deans and Directors that morning to work on new ideas for the direction of the Strategic Plan for the next ten years. Preliminary drafts should be forthcoming.

Dr. Wildenthal is working with the Vice Presidents and other administrative officials to put together a budget for the next fiscal year.

The reviews of Deans Pirkul, Moore and Helms, as well as certain academic program reviews, are nearing the end.

Dr. Wildenthal was asked about the backlog in admissions that had been discussed in a previous meeting. He replied that the problems in the processing of undergraduate applications is almost resolved, and the Admissions department is catching up. Graduate applications have been sent to the six schools on campus for their review and decisions.
The Provost also mentioned that applications are up from international students for graduate programs.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendments were made to the Speaker’s report and the wording of the proposed changes to procedure for initial appointments. Cy Cantrell moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2007 as amended. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Kaplan. It carried.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

1. The Senate elections have been completed. Since just 35 nominations were submitted for 38 positions, all candidates have been declared elected. The list of those elected has been previously circulated by email.

Since there were more Senior Lecturer candidates than there were Senior Lecturer positions, that election is ongoing. Ballots have been circulated.

2. The graduate students' concerns with plus/minus grading for graduate courses has been taken up by CEP but deferred. The Speaker has not yet written his letter of explanation; he will circulate the draft to CEP.

4. FAC REPORT

5. A.) APPROVAL OF DEGREE PROGRAMS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & PUBLIC POLICY

Cy Cantrell spoke about these four new degree programs to the Senate. The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has given their approval, and now it comes to the Senate for it's approval. Dr. Cantrell emphasized that no new courses would need to be added for these programs to be implemented. It is simply a matter of reorganizing them into new programs.

Dr. Cantrell made a motion to accept the programs as distributed, Jennifer Holmes seconded the motion, and it carried.

5. B.) APPROVAL OF GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Dr. Cantrell told the Senate that CEP not only gave their approval for the Program Certificate in Holocaust Studies, they were strongly supportive of it. Tim Redman added that there is strong support for it in the Dallas community.

Dr. Cantrell made a motion to accept the Holocaust Studies Certificate. Dr. Redman seconded the motion, and it carried.
6. AMENDMENT TO HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES REGARDING SENIOR LECTURERS IN THE SENATE

Speaker Leaf called for a motion to amend section II. B. of Title III of the UTD Handbook of Operating Procedures. The section deals with the composition of the Senate. The amendment is to include Senior Lecturer representation. The Senate instituted this several years ago and the procedure is in our bylaws, but it has not up now been incorporated in the HOP.

The motion is to insert the following section:

B. 3. In addition to the representatives of the General Faculty, the Senate shall include representatives of the Senior Lecturers, of a number not to exceed 10% of the total number of Senators. Representatives of the Senior Lecturers are elected by the Senior Lecturers in a separate election procedure described in the Bylaws of the Academic Senate.

The present section B.3 will then become B.4, and B.4 will be B.5.

Robert Kieschnick made the motion. Cy Cantrell seconded. The motion carried.

7. POLICIES FOR IMPLEMENTING HONORS IN THE MAJOR

In accordance with the Senate’s directive, policies to implement Honors in the major have been discussed by CEP and CUE and their views have been forwarded to the Council. The Council directed Speaker Leaf to consolidate them into actionable motions. This has been done in consultation with the chairs of CEP and CUE. Speaker suggested that a motion be made to approve all the policies. We would then discuss and amend them as needed one by one, and then vote on the motion. A motion was made by Dr. Cantrell and seconded by Dr. Redman. The final wording, developed in discussion, was:

a.) Faculty Supervising undergraduate honors theses or projects should be awarded teaching load credit comparable to that given for Master’s level thesis supervision.

b.) The University shall fund an Honors Poster Day to coincide with spring Honors Convocation at which students who have written theses or done creative projects for Honors in the Major will display and discuss their work. A similar forum shall also be provided electronically and maintained permanently, so that the University can display the works of its Honors graduates to a wider audience on a more permanent basis.

c.) Each school shall provide a monetary prize to the most distinguished student thesis or project each academic year. These awards will be announced during the
spring Honors Convocation. Recognition shall be based on the judgment of a faculty committee of the school according to a process established by the faculty of the school. Selection shall be made from among the theses or projects deemed to merit Honors in the Major with Distinction.

d.) The Administration should allocate funds to the Office of Undergraduate Education to offset the cost of student theses or projects in the programs for Honors in the Major. The funds shall be allocated to the students based on research or project proposals from the students. The method for evaluating the proposals shall be established by the Senate. The Senate recommends that the funds be allocated or through the school Deans.

Upon agreement that discussion should end, the Speaker called for the vote. The motion to approve carried.

8. SENATE REPRESENTATION ON CAMPUS HOUSING COMMITTEE

Dr. Cantrell moved that the Academic Senate recommend that there be a Senate representative on the Campus Housing Committee. Robert Kieschnick seconded. The motion carried.

Dr. Leaf will discuss implementation with VP Rachavong.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Pervin moved to adjourn. There were multiple seconds. The motion passed.

APPROVED: ______________________________                     DATE: _____________

Speaker of the Faculty