ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
May 19, 2004


VISITORS: James Bartlett, Priscilla Beadle, Gail Breen, Gregg Dieckmann, Laura Rashedi, Victoria Neave,

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order. He explained what the Washington Advisory Group (WAG) report. The report is on the UTD web page for viewing. It basically states that UTD will be ready for Tier One status in approximately 10 years. Nothing really surprising was in the report. U. T. System has encouraged us to take this report seriously and to do what the report recommends. The Regents have asked for a report from the institutions regarding the WAG Report.

The Regents have established a new audit committee headed by Regent Estrada. They are also hiring an outside auditing firm and are encouraging all the universities to add an outside auditor to their internal audit committees.

Every time a President leaves, System conducts a Management Audit. They have already begun and will be here for 15 weeks. They will not be determining anything, but will just listen to what people have to say. U. T. Arlington and U. T. Pan American have already been through this process.

Dr. Jenifer stated that he felt that the search committee would probably select several candidates this summer and then the on campus interviews will begin in September.
The Regents approved the purchasing of the building on Waterview Parkway. They also approved the Brain Health building at Callier; Dr. Sandi Chapman is to be commended for raising the funds for the majority of the building.

The architectural plans for the new Natural Science and Engineering building as part of Project Emmit have been approved by the Regents. The groundbreaking should take place in November. The building will be located at the corner of Synergy and Rutford.

We have not heard any word about receiving the vetoed 5M excellence money back from the Governor’s office.

Charles Miller, Chairman of the Board of Regents, has resigned; a replacement should be named within a month.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

A. The new Senate has met in caucus. The Speaker-elect is Robert Nelsen (A&H); the Secretary-elect is Simeon Ntafos (EE/CS). The Council members will be:
   - Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Piñeres (S)
   - R. Chandrasakaran (E)
   - Juan Gonzalez (N)
   - Robert Kieschnick (M)
   - Alice O’Toole (BBS)

At the beginning of the meeting, the Caucus considered whether to change the system for the election of the Council members. The proposal which had been circulated in advance by Professor Ntafos was to reject the established plurality system in favor of weighted preferences as used in the Senate election. Speaker Leaf opposed the change on the ground that it is not within the charge of the caucus to change the bylaws, and the established procedure was de facto part of the bylaws. He also argued that it in general it is bad policy to contest the manner of election at the same time as an election itself is being contested. The question went to a vote and the body voted 16 to 13 to change the
system of voting. The vote for Council was held using the preferential voting. John Wiorowski tabulated the votes.

Priorities for the coming year, in addition to continuing to follow up on what has already been undertaken, were set as:

IR—policy needs to be reviewed and rationalized.

Compliance Training—there is too much of it and it is not useful.

EEOC -- Strengthen mentoring

Examine current confidentiality practices in relation to the problem of properly informing concern faculty and program directors in regard to academic discipline issues and cases.

WAG Report—examine and assess.

Stimulate graduate education at the Ph.D. level, including greatly improving the current practices in recruiting and advising.

Consider responses to the anticipated increases in pressure from students to inflate grades due the B On Time program and other Texas legislative initiatives.

B. Library Committee/Patriots Act issues: The library committee is still working on wording. It appears they are trying to draft an omnibus condemnation of the Act.

C. Senior lecturers have held their elections for representatives on the Senate:

Doug Benn (E)
Marilyn Kaplan (M)
Penny Sanders (G)

This represents a change in the election system that the Senior Lecturers decided on last year, namely to hold their elections in the Spring just after the Senate elections rather than in the fall, which was in theory just after their contracts were affirmed.
D. The new President of the Student Government Association is Laura Rashedi.

E. Workload strategy. Pursuant to the instructions of the Senate in the last meeting, Robert Nelsen drafted a charge for a 3+3+1 committee to try to develop a strategy to more effectively meet our teaching load requirements while also meeting our other obligations. The Council offered the charge at its last meeting and the President agreed to act on it directly. Robert Nelsen and Murray Leaf have now met with Provost Wildenthal and discussed the composition of the committee. Proposed names at this point are actually three from the administration, four from the faculty and one from student government. Murray Leaf has been proposed as chair. We need to talk to the proposed members before the list can be finalized. Meetings should start this summer. A copy of the charge to the committee will be attached to these minutes, for the record.

F. Signage. The Signage Committee has been meeting and is close to submitting a proposal to the President. Dr. Leaf gave a presentation that showed where the proposed signage would be placed on each building.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Robert Nelsen reported on the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) actions. The Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Teresa Sullivan, has submitted a response on the WAG report. Her recommendations include the following items:

1. Hold a best practices meeting on faculty hiring
2. Establish accountability measures for productive success of new hires
3. Hold a best practices seminar for Deans and Department Heads for research management
4. Initiate peer review of the Office of Sponsored Projects
5. Develop plans on each campus for the use of indirect costs
6. Home grow and promote undergrads into graduate students
7. Establish procedures and plans for recruiting out of state graduate students
8. Establish new PhD programs and professional masters in applied sciences
9. Increase collaborations with other UT System institutions

The Coordinating Board and the Chancellors and Presidents' Council has decided that there needs to be targeted (i.e., goal oriented) accountability measures. Each university is currently deciding which measures to use as specific targets. Among those chosen by UT System are the following:
1. Enrollment disaggregated by race, gender, age, and level
2. Ethnic composition of first time, fulltime students
3. Financial aid
4. Certificate and licensure rate on national exams
5. Number and percent of graduates by race, gender, and level
6. Persistence rate of graduates (what used to be called “retention rates”)
7. Student life experience as measured by the National Survey of Student
   Engagement
8. National and regional institutional rankings (e.g., US News)
9. Number of patents
10. Faculty awards
11. Total amount of external research funding
12. Appropriated funds per FTE student and faculty
13. Space utilization rates

Standardized testing remains on the horizon but is getting closer. This fall ETS and Rand
standardized tests will likely be administered on all academic campuses.

The Telecampus is being reviewed. Three proposals include hiring adjuncts to teach the
classes, offering additional compensation for fulltime faculty who are teaching overload
distance learning classes, and a single MBA tuition.

5. B.S. IN CHILD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEGREE PROGRAM
   PROPOSAL

This is a new degree that is being presented. A motion was made and seconded to
approve this new program. The motion passed.

6. 3+3+1 COMMITTEE ON WORKLOAD STRATEGY

Dr. Leaf presented the proposed committee on workload strategy. This committee would
begin work this summer and there will be three faculty, three administrators and one
student. There was no further discussion.
Ad Hoc 3 + 3 +1 Workload Strategy Committee Charge
(draft)

Regents' Rules establish minimum workload requirements, and traditionally at UTD those requirements have been translated into a point system in which each faculty member has been responsible for achieving a minimum of at least 18 instructional points per year. How these points were “counted” has varied over time and among the various Schools. In addition, faculty with research grants have been able to “buy out” points, and a limited number of presidential points have been available to meet the minimum requirements. UTD aspires to reach first tier status as a research institution while providing students with a high-quality, cost-effective education that combines the nurturing environment of a liberal arts college with the intellectual rigor and depth of a major research university. According to the recently released Washington Advisory Group's report, UTD will face many obstacles in reaching its aspirations. One obstacle the report cites is the current teaching load (on average, a 2 course load per semester). This teaching load is higher than most first tier research universities, and the WAG report indicates that UTD needs to lower the teaching load to 2/1 for research faculty in order to attract the high quality faculty needed to achieve first tier status and to provide the current and future faculty with sufficient time to do research.

With the pressures of the Coordinating Board's Closing the Gaps' initiative and the overall growth of the University, lowering the minimum teaching load will require innovative initiatives. Currently, UTD has 109 different degree programs, including 23 doctoral programs; from 1999-2003, enrollment for the University grew from 10,101 to 13,718 (some estimates indicate that UTD may have as many as 23,000 students by 2015.) Nevertheless, in spite of the growth in enrollment, external research funds have risen from $17.6M in fiscal year 2000 to $28.7M in fiscal year 2003.

The WAG report advises the University to establish a long range strategic plan to meet its goal of $100M in research funds. As part of the process to establish such a plan, the Ad Hoc Workload Strategy Committee is charged to review the current workload policy as outlined in Regents' Rules, the Handbook of Operating Procedures, and Provost Hobson Wildenthal's March 1, 2004, Administration of Academic Workload Policy memorandum and to make recommendations to the President, the Provost, and the Senate (a) regarding the implementation of those policies and (b) regarding effective strategies to meet teaching obligations in light of other workload obligations. In doing so, the Ad Hoc Committee should take into consideration the information in the WAG report and the 2004 Presidential Compact (which states that "The strategic intent of the University is to be a research-oriented university with focused areas of excellence in contrast to a large, diffuse, comprehensive 'megaversity' on one hand, and a technological institute on the other. The University does not aim to be narrow and fixed in convention; rather, it intends to be agile and sustain its high fidelity to the emerging scientific, technological, managerial, and social trends that affect society.") and should endeavor to make recommendations that will allow UTD, its student body, and its faculty to reach first tier status.
7. HEARING TRIBUNAL

Dr. Leaf presented the proposed membership (listed below) for the pool for potential hearing tribunals for 2004-2005. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed hearing tribunal. The motion passed.

Hearing Tribunal for 2004-2005: Herve Abdi (B), Poras Balsara (E), Duane Buhrmester (B), Lloyd Dumas (S), David Edmunds (A), Euel Elliot (S), Andras Farago (E), Donald Gray (N), Robert Marsh (N), George McMechan (N), Simeon Ntafos (E), Karen Prager (G), Stephen Rabe (A), Suresh Radhakrishnan (M), Ram Rao (M), Suresh Sethi (M), Dean Sherry (N), Marianne Stewart (S), Hal Sudborough (E), Emily Tobey (B)

8. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES’ MEMBERSHIP

The membership on the Committee on Committees was presented. One person from each school is on this committee, so three members were up for appointment. A motion was made and seconded to approve the following committee: Duane Buhrmester (B), Gail Breen (N), D. T. Huynh (E), Murray leaf (S), B.P.S. Murthi (M), Gerald Soliday (A). The motion passed.

9. COMMITTEE ON FACULTY MENTORING

The (attached) list that was presented was initially submitted by the Core Committee on Women and Minorities and has subsequently been approved by the Committee on Committees. This will be a Senate committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed committee membership. The motion passed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Leaf thanked the Senate and the President for cooperation in his previous three years as Speaker. It is indeed a cooperative effort between the President and the faculty. The President also mentioned that Dr. Leaf had done an extraordinarily well done job.

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra K. Goertzen, Academic Governance Secretary