ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
November 3, 2004


ABSENT: Sheila Gutierrez Amin de Pineres, Tom Brikowski, Lawrence Cauller, Greg Dieckmann, Gopal Gupta, Stephen Levene, Matthew Leybourne, Sumit Majumdar, Greg Metz, Homer Montgomery, Shun Chen Niu, Thomas Riccio, S. Venkatesan

VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Laura Rashedi, Larry Terry

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order and made a few comments. The interviews for the Presidential candidates have been completed. The Search Committee did an outstanding job.

The State of the University address and the general faculty meeting are scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2004. There is going to be a virtual ground breaking for the new building on campus as well as the new TI plant on November 18th.

The first meeting of the Senate Finance Committee has taken place with the Chancellors and the University Presidents. UT System has set guidelines that: absolutely no tuition increase over 5% will be acceptable because of pressure from the legislature. We will have an increase, but no more than 5%. We are also required to submit 95% of what we got last year for our budget request. Even with the 5% cut Dr. Jenifer says he thinks we will be okay.

We keep hearing that we might get some of the excellence money back, but nothing final yet.

The ad hoc tuition committee has started meeting once again. We need to hire about 50 new faculty, but there is no money for these new faculty.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

This agenda item was postponed to the next official meeting of the Council.

3. DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL – B.S. IN FINANCE

The B.S. in Finance proposal was presented. This degree was requested to help our graduates be more marketable. The existing faculty will be used for this new program and the costs for some faculty and senior lecturers will be reallocated. CEP has approved this new program.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new degree. The motion passed.

4. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES DISCUSSION

The Senate agreed to convene in a caucus without the President in order to discuss the Presidential Candidates and the possibility of preparing a report for the Board of Regents from the Senate.

The Senate came out of the caucus and agreed to reconvene to approve a motion that was presented in the caucus.

The motion was made and seconded that a report should be written by the Secretary of the Faculty on behalf of the Senate regarding the consensus of the Senate on the candidates. This report should be no longer than two pages and should be distributed for comments to the entire Senate by November 8th.

The motion passed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen
Academic Governance Secretary