ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
October 20, 2004

PRESENT: Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Piñeres, Kurt Beron, Cy Cantrell, R.
Chandrasekaran, Kevin Curtin, G. R. Dattatreya, Gregg Dieckmann, Juan Gonzalez,
Jennifer Holmes, Franklyn Jenifer, Marilyn Kaplan, Murray Leaf, Matthew Leybourne,
Sumit Majumdar, Robert Marsh, Nirup Menon, R. Natarajan, Robert Nelsen, Simeon
Ntafos, Joseph Picken, Tim Redman, Thomas Riccio, Liz Salter, Richard Scotch, Gerald
Soliday, S. Venkatesan. Hobson Wildenthal

ABSENT: James Bartlett, Gail Breen, Tom Brikowski, Lawrence Cauller, Gopal Gupta,
Robert Kieschnick, Stephen Levene, Greg Metz, Shun Chen Niu, Alice O’Toole, S. Q.
Zheng

VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Austin Cunningham, Duncan MacFarlane, Lynn Melton,
Laura Rashedi, Larry Terry

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order. He announced that there would be a meeting of
the Senate Finance Committee the next week. They have moved the schedule up, and we
may still be looking at a tuition increase. Final budget will probably be coming down in
April.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of September 15, 2004. The
motion carried.

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported that the Academic Discipline procedure that we currently have has no
appeal process for faculty beyond the Dean of Students. There is currently a case where
the first draft of a paper was plagiarized, but since it hadn’t been officially turned in, the
decision was not to do anything about the plagiarism. The Office of General Counsel has
been asked to see if the faculty have the right to appeal decisions of this sort.
The Strategic Plan is still being worked on. If there are any items any of the committees should be working on, Dr. Nelsen would like to be informed.

The State of the University address will be on the 17th of November in the School of Management Auditorium.

The Student Life Committee has not been needed the last four years, and the committee has requested it be disbanded or combined with the Student Fee Committee. Dr. Rachavong has asked to keep the committee alive because she has items to bring forward to the committee.

Speaker Nelsen also brought the Senate up to date on the Presidential search. All three candidates will be using the same two-day schedule. It is very important to turn in the forms after the various groups have had a chance to meet with the candidates. System and the Board of Regents are very interested in comparing the candidates from the feedback they receive via these forms.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported that the FAC met in September and the new Commissioner of Higher Education spoke to the group about closing the gaps.

College Learning Assessment testing will continue but only with 100 students. These students are supposed to be chosen at random. The Math and Writing assessments failed and will not continue in their present form.

5. DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL – MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (PH.D. AND M.S.)

Nelsen gave a brief introduction before turning the agenda item over to the presenters. He explained that this proposal had not gone to CEP but went through the Graduate Council. After it has been approved by System, there would be combined faculty from Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Electrical Engineering and administered out of Electrical Engineering.

Dr. MacFarlane and Dr. Cantrell presented the proposed new degree program and explained that no new faculty are needed and there are no financial implications; however $119,000 is being requested from existing funds.
Dr. Lynn Melton spoke on behalf of the Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Dr. John Ferraris, and stated the new program is supported by the faculty of the School of NS&M.

There was further discussion about why the proposal had not gone to CEP prior to coming to the Senate. It was decided that even thought the Senate had approved the policy for the Graduate Council, the Senate didn’t intend to bypass the CEP review process regarding new programs.

A motion was made that the item that CEP be asked to look at it within a week before it is sent to System. The Speaker will draft an appropriate motion for the Senate discussion.

The motion passed.

6. ANNUAL REPORT: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

The CEP annual report was discussed. The Committee only met four times last year. The committee doesn’t seem to function as it had in the past because of the increased roles of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils. There was some discussion about this perception with the Senate members and the Chair of CEP. There was also continued discussion about the role of faculty governance with regards to approving new academic programs.

A motion was made to refer this matter back to the Academic Council for review. The Speaker will meet with the Dean of Undergraduate Education and the Dean of Graduate Studies to discuss it prior to bringing it back to the Council.

The motion passed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen
Academic Governance Secretary