APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are the official minutes.

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
September 15, 2010

PRESENT: Hobson Wildenthal, Indranil Bardhan, Kurt Beron, Dinesh Bhatia, Dan Bochsler, Cy Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Gregg Dieckmann, Kelly Durbin, Simon Fass, D.T. Huynh, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Ganesh Janakiraman, Kamran Kiasaleh, Murray Leaf, Dennis Miller, Jessica Murphy, B.P.S. Murthi, Ramachandran, Natarajan, Steven Nielsen, Simeon Ntafos, Tim Redman, Orlando Richard, Liz Salter, Richard Scotch, Lucien Thompson, Zhenyu Xuan, Harold Zhang

ABSENT: Gail Breen, John Burr, Gregory Dess, Tobias Hagge, John Hoffman, Linda Keith, Syam Menon, Ravi Prakash, Robert Stern, Mathukumalli Vidyasagar, Yexiao Xu

VISITORS: Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Lewis Chang, Chris Parr, Rochelle A. Pena

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS
Provost Wildenthal called the meeting to order. He announced that the dedication ceremony for the campus beautification project will be held on Wednesday, September 29. He opened the floor for questions; there were none.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Cy Cantrell made a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. Dan Bochsler seconded. The motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Cy Cantrell made a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Dan Bochsler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. SPEAKER’S REPORT
Speaker Leaf reported the following:

1) An email ballot was circulated for the Senate to vote on the items that received preliminary approval at the August meeting, since the meeting lacked a quorum. There were twenty-four votes to approve all the items; there were no dissenting votes. Since the voting number constitutes a quorum, the preliminary approvals are confirmed.

2) The charge for the Sustainability Committee went to the HOP Committee and was slightly revised from what the Senate approved. The modification was that the Senate approved the charge with rotating terms for two groups of schools – natural sciences
and social sciences and humanities – and the HOP Committee wanted to specify a one-year term rather than leave the length unspecified. Speaker Leaf considered this consistent with the Senate’s intent. The next step is to appoint faculty members to serve on this committee. Speaker Leaf asked anyone with an interest in serving on this committee to contact him.

3) On August 31 Speaker Leaf met with Gene Fitch, the new Dean of Students. They had a long discussion regarding faculty having more involvement in the adjudication process and better feedback once a decision has been made. Dean Fitch’s position is that only faculty should change grades (with some obvious qualifications). This has not been the case in the past. Speaker Leaf fully supports this position.

They agreed to the idea of at least an annual report to the Senate on which cases had been reviewed. The first report will be delivered at the next Senate meeting.

4) Another issue that was discussed was the use of faculty as advisors to the judicial affairs officers during the decision-making process. They also discussed using faculty to make the initial judgment regarding plagiarism on Master’s theses and dissertations.

5) Tony Champagne has been concerned about the issue of having criminal background checks done on students who are taking University-sponsored trips with faculty. He and Dean Fitch are meeting to discuss this issue.

5. FAC REPORT
Speaker Leaf stated that the next Faculty Advisory Council meeting will be held September 23-24. He will not be able to attend but David Cordell and Richard Scotch will be attending. A major item for discussion at this meeting will be the Criminal Background Check policy.

6. STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON REPORT
Dr. Cordell reported that Student Government is currently working on three projects – a voter registration drive, an energy reduction competition and information brochures for the apartments. None of these projects require action by the Senate.

7. ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS
David Cordell noted that the reports that have been received so far are in the agenda packet for today’s meeting (Item #7). There are still some reports that have not been received, and Dr. Cordell reminded committee chairs to submit this information. David Cordell made a motion to accept the annual committee reports. Richard Scotch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. DISCUSSION ON CRIMINAL BACKGROUND POLICY
Speaker Leaf introduced the draft policy on Criminal Background Checks. He was asked how the amended draft differed from what was previously circulated in the agenda packet. There are two main differences. He has added section III C noting that the results of a background check could result in consideration of termination for cause for tenured or tenure-track faculty, and he has added the definition of a full-time position.

Discussion mainly focused on the wording of Section III C. Several Senators objected to the second sentence. This said that in the case of such a consideration, the criterion for dismissal would be moral turpitude or that the criminal conviction was a felony related to
the faculty member's professional capacity as a teacher, writer, or scholar. The Senate preferred to delete the sentence.

Other amendments concerned Section VI F (inserting legal counsel among those who could be consulted in interpreting the results of a search), Section II D (clarifying that "human subjects" in the sentence would be minors), and on the last page changing the reference to "paragraph 10" to "section VIII B."

Speaker Leaf called for a motion to approve the draft as amended in principle, pending final action on the System policy at the System level and a reaction from the Faculty Advisory Council. Dr. Chandrasekaran made the motion. Jessica Murphy seconded. The motion carried.

9. REVISIONS TO FINANCIAL EXIGENCY POLICY

Richard Scotch made a motion to approve this policy as circulated. Liz Salter seconded the motion. David Cordell acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the hard work that Speaker Leaf had done on getting this policy written and approved. The motion carried. The policy will now go to the Office of General Counsel as well as to the Faculty Advisory Council and will be used as a model for other System campuses.

10. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Speaker Leaf noted that normally the Senate does not approve bylaws for committees, but since this committee is so important and has legal implications for the University, the bylaws should be reviewed and approved by the Senate. The bylaws have been modified slightly to ensure that the Committee gets its work done earlier in the year so that students receive their money when school begins. Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki made a motion to approve the bylaws. Cy Cantrell seconded. The motion carried.

11. REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Speaker Leaf reviewed the recommendations of the Committee on Committee regarding adjustments to the appointments approved by the Senate at the August meeting, and asked if the Senate preferred to consider each recommendation separately or vote on them together.

The recommendations are:

1) Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel: Approve Professor Timothy Redman as Chair.

2) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: Approve Dr. Lucien Thompson as Chair and approve Dr. Leonidas Bleris as Vice Chair.

3) Committee on the Core Curriculum: Appoint Dr. Sarah P. Maxwell to replace Dr. Kruti Dholakia, and appoint Dr. Melanie Spence to replace Dr. Duane Buhrmester.

4) Committee on Student Scholarships: Appoint Dr. Sarah P. Maxwell to replace Dr. Kruti Dholakia and appoint Dr. Melanie Spence to replace Margaret Owen.

Dr. Cantrell moved to approve all of the recommendations. B.P.S Murthi seconded. The motion carried.
There being no further business, Provost Wildenthal adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED:

Murray J. Leaf
Speaker of the Academic Senate

DATE: ____________________________