ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
September 15, 2004


ABSENT: Stephen Levene, Matthew Leybourne, Nirup Menon, Greg Metz, Alice O'Toole, Richard Scotch

VISITORS: Priscilla Beadle, Michael Coleman, Larry Terry

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Jenifer called the meeting to order and gave an update on the power outage that the University experienced. The problem consisted mostly of lines that were 35 years old and just wore out. They have been replaced now. We hired consultants and rented generators to keep the necessary electricity on. Physical Plant did a wonderful job getting the campus back up in a very short period of time. We have a good financial situation at the University because of our reserve; therefore, we did not have to ask for money or borrow money to pay for the repairs.

There is a lot of infrastructure work being done on the campus, which makes the campus not look its best, and there have been concerns about bringing on campus the candidates for the next President, but these repairs must be done now. These repairs, for instance, include new sewer lines.

Money has been set aside to renovate Jonsson and Berkner, and we are asking for more funding for Green Hall.

The Senate expresses their appreciation to Mr. Lovitt, the Senior Vice President for Business Affairs and the Business Affairs staff for all their extra efforts regarding this campus outage.
Mr. Lovitt has submitted his resignation/retirement as of May 31, 2005. You can expect there to be more people leaving within the next year when we get a new President. This is just standard procedure when leadership changes.

There are still traffic problems with the intersection of Drive A and Rutford Blvd. They are working on it, but it has not been resolved yet.

The budget process is starting for next year. The Legislative Senate Finance Committee is already meeting. The guidelines are: (1) 5% below what we got last year and (2) tuition revenue bonds -- $2.8M to pay these back. The administration has started talking to the students about the potential increase in tuition next fall. It depends on how bad and how real the 5% cut is. We have done very well this year with the enrollment increase. The enrollment is 14,115 this fall with an average SAT of 1242. The average SAT with the Academic Bridge Program students is 1239. We have 38 national merit scholars. Recruitment turn outs have been great.

The Governor has decided to return the excellence money that was taken from us, but we haven’t seen it yet.

The article in the Dallas Morning News regarding legal actions involving UTD had a lot of allegations in it, but nobody [from the media] has picked it up.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

3. SPEAKER’S REPORT

Dr. Nelsen reported on the following Senate membership changes: Doug Benn, one of the Senior Lecturers on the Senate, is no longer with the University so we will be replacing him. Susan Jerger has had to resign from the Senate, so Tom Riccio from Arts & Humanities has been appointed to fill Dr. Jerger’s term. Dr. Liz Salter was also welcomed back to the Senate to replace Greg Metz, who could not serve.

The Presidential Search is winding down. The background interviews are finished; eight candidates have been invited for airport interviews. Questions for interviews have been written including how do you deal with growth, management style, faculty governance, fund raising, etc. The committee expects the finalist names to be announced on October
4th with visits to the campus shortly thereafter. Each candidate will visit with the Senate, faculty as a whole, deans, Staff Council, President, chaired professors, and (we hope) the Core Committee on Women and Minorities.

The Strategic Planning Committee has finished meeting. All schools have finished their reports, and the committees on closing gaps, infrastructure, faculty recruitment, fund raising, graduate education, technology transfer collaborations, campus life, etc., are finishing their reports. The plan is to have the finished report by October 1.

Speaker Nelsen is putting together an ad hoc committee to determine procedures for full-time tenured faculty to apply for part-time status. This possibility was okayed by the Chancellor last year; the procedure could be used by faculty with start-up companies and grants, to take care of children or adults, and by faculty who are moving toward retirement. If anyone wants to volunteer to serve on this committee, contact Speaker Nelsen.

Photo rosters are available thanks to the Undergraduate Dean’s office. Go to the web, fill out form with names, office hours, details about the class, and they will be delivered to you. The link is www.utdallas.edu/dept/ugraddean/phot roster.html.

4. FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Robert Nelsen reported on the Faculty Advisory Council. The System held a best hiring practices meeting as part of the WAG response. Most schools are planning on hiring 50 to 70 faculty this year, emphasizing strategic hiring, encouraging active recruitment of graduate students, and emphasizing chairs and stars.

The System is also working on a report on the Electronic Media Standards. The draft is now available on the web and System is asking for faculty input. This report was done as a result of allegations of pornography at various campuses. They updated current policies, changing “pornographic” to “obscene” and making it clear there is no privacy. The new procedures allow for sanctions and use “incidental personal use” language to handle questions regarding on-campus use. The full report can be found by following the news link on www.utsystem.edu web site. Next meeting of the FAC is October 7-8.
5. COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT (CLA) PROJECT 
(THE RAND TEST)

There are one hundred students in RHET 1101 that have taken the test; 100 seniors will 
take it this semester. The test is orchestrated by Dean Coleman and uses writing 
instruments from the GRE exam to calculate the ability of students to think critically. 
The plan is to publish results on the web as part of accountability reporting. The danger 
is pressure to teach toward a test. The benefit/positive aspect is that the CLA is a lot 
better than standardized tests in majors.

6. COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

The Coordinating Board requires that all lower-division courses be identified with a cross 
listing of its Texas Common Course Number as part of catalogue course descriptions. 
Also all catalogues must have a matrix for the cross listings. The purpose is to make 
transfer more transparent. Any and all courses listed in the Academic Course Guide 
Manual must be accepted as transfer credit. We cannot require students to retake courses 
even if our courses are taught differently. This requirement applies especially to core 
courses and courses in fields of study. UTD began the cross-listing process two years 
ago, but currently 112 courses are without TCCN numbers—43 of these are special topics 
courses, which are exempted; the remaining 69 are under review by Dean Coleman’s 
office, with assistance from the Undergraduate Education Council and Core Curriculum 
Committee.

7. INDIRECT COSTS

The Chancellor has come forward with his recommendation to return 100% of indirect 
costs to the campuses. We now need to determine how we are going to distribute it. The 
recommendation on the agenda says the PI will now get 15%, 5% will go to the Vice 
President for Research and Graduate Education, and 35% will go to the Deans. If a 
student is supported as part of a grant, the PI can receive up to 15% of total funds from 
remaining pool of 45% for each student supported up to a total of 45% if three students 
are supported.

The Senate is being asked to endorse this plan for distributing the funds. A motion was 
made and seconded to approve this plan. The motion passed.
8. PROVOST’S REPORT ON PROMOTIONS

Dr. Larry Terry gave the report on promotions on behalf of the Executive Vice President and Provost’s office. There were eighteen faculty members reviewed for reappointment as Assistant Professors. He stated that Arts and Humanities had one reappointed as Assistant Professor and one promoted to Associate Professor; Behavioral and Brain Sciences had two promoted to Associate Professor and two promoted to Full Professor; Engineering and Computer Science had two reappointed as Assistant Professor, three promoted to Associate Professors, one promoted to Full Professor and one was terminated; Management had seven reappointed as Assistant Professors and two promoted to Associate Professors; Natural Science and Mathematics had two reappointed as Assistant Professors and one promoted to Full Professor; Social Sciences had five reappointed as Assistant Professors.

9. ANNUAL REPORTS

The following committee’s annual reports were discussed by Speaker Nelsen.

COMMITTEE ON CORE CURRICULUM

The committee is working to reduce number of core equivalencies. They have a new ex-officio member (Director of Undergraduate Advising), and the change needs to be added to the charge.

COMMITTEE ON QUALIFICATIONS

There was some controversy over the role of CQ with regards to the third year reviews. Were they to deny continuation of employment or merely comment on trajectory? The committee has found this difficult in the past; in part, the problem is derived from decisions made four years ago based on the report from the Core Committee for the Support of Women and Minorities using trajectory statement. Ultimately, CQ decided that their job was to only comment on trajectory—a no vote, therefore, means that CQ does not believe that the candidate is on the proper trajectory toward tenure.

The Committee has experienced the usual problems with late files due to difficulty in getting letters; also with late new hires, especially at the tenure rank. CQ must meet regarding these files. A new problem that has arisen concerns multiple
authored papers. Ad Hoc committees will be asked to look into what percentage of the work was done by the person under review and consider it in their evaluations.

DISTANCE LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Distance Learning committee now has each school represented and will continue working with the Library. The System said that normal review of curriculum practices must be followed/established for telecampus courses, so committee will be asked to draw up those procedures/practices.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra K. Goertzen, Academic Governance Secretary