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
October 18, 2017


Visitors: Naomi Emmet, Calvin Jamison, Shella Hayes, Bill Pervin, Marion Underwood, J. W. Van Der Schans, Mary-Jo Venetis

1. Call to Order for the Academic Senate Meeting

President Benson called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. An early report from the Strategic Plan Steering Committee is available on the web. The administration hopes to have the strategic plan finalized by the end of October. The State of the University Address will be October 31st, 2017.

This year the university lost $4.3 million of state funding, despite having 3,700 more students. This breaks down to a loss of a third of million dollars in construction and operations, $2.3 million in core research funding, and $2 million in special items. An example of a special item is the Academic Bridge Program. Also there are fewer full-tuition-paying masters students, especially from China and India. There is actually less money per student than in 2009. It is expected in December 2017 a request will be made to the Regents to increase tuition and fees. This is a typical situation across the United States.

On the positive side the university did meet the eligibility requirement two years in a row for the National Research University Fund. In this fiscal year the university is eligible for approximately $6 million annually to support research activities on campus.

There are roughly 100-acres available on the north side of the university’s campus. The university has teamed up with the city of Richardson to create a proposal for the Amazon 2 headquarters. Each proposal must hit certain critical markers, especially for transportation. Thankfully our campus has that available. The floor was opened to questions. There were none.
2. Approval of the Agenda  
Richard moved to approve the circulated agenda. Matt Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes  
Andrew Blanchard moved to approve the minutes. Joe Izen seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker's Report – Murray Leaf  
1. The Speaker has been working on the Committee on Committees recommendations for replacements on committees.
2. All other item are on the agenda.

5. Presentation: Campus Update – Calvin Jamison  
Calvin Jamison gave a Campus Update presentation. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation is in Appendix A.

6. SACSCOC Reaffirmation Updates – Mary-Jo Venetis  
Mary-Jo Venetis circulated a handout containing a list of on-campus presentations that the Senate is invited to attend. They are previews of presentations about university initiatives that will be given at the December SACSCOC annual meeting.

7. Texas Council of Faculty Senates and UT System Faculty Advisory Council Reports- Murray Leaf and David Cordell  
The FAC meet October 5-6, 2017. The chair of the council is from UT Southwestern. The first day was divided between committee meetings and a long discussion of the campus reports. It was dominated by the health campuses as they have many governance issues. The major item that came out of the committee meetings came from the Governance Committee. This was the draft of the new Regents’ Rule that will permit each campus to make its own workload policy.

The Academic Vice Chancellor was described as not wanting faculty input on the amendments on the workload policy. The FAC was told only to look at the template to consider its implementation rather than to consider changes. The FAC reviewed it and thought changes were required, one of which was ambiguous wording that suggested that a department chair need not pay attention to a policy that had been written on campus. That was left ambiguous.

Another major problem was a section dealing with the process if no appropriate tenured professors were available to fill a department chair position. A proposal would allow a non-tenured faculty member to be appointed department chair. It was not clear whether “non-tenured” meant an untenured tenure-track faculty member, or a non-tenure system faculty member, or both. Dr. Cordell contended that it is a bad idea for an untenured tenure-track professor to serve as a chair for two reasons. First, there is inevitable conflict when the chair must make decisions that affect individuals who will vote on his/her potential promotion. Second, the time available for an untenured tenure-track professor is better spent in research that will result in promotion. Dr. Cordell suggested that, if a no tenured professor were available to assume the chair, a better solution would be to appoint a non-tenure system faculty member.
There was one other discrepancy that caused the health campuses to assume the policy also applied to them, but that was a misunderstanding. The next day Dr. Leaf brought the two points up with the group that made the revisions. Notes were taken, and hopefully those changes will be made.

The FAC created a primer on Faculty Governance. It is their hope that it will be applied at different schools. Our university was put up as the model for shared governance. FAC feels that the primer will be very useful.

FAC representatives from the health campuses created a symposium on academic physician burnout. The schools obtained funding from UT System, and the final product became a national symposium with attendance from all across the United States.

The dual credit statement is still being written. It is suspected that the conclusion will be that dual credit has a place but that the number of hours should be more restricted and that there should be better quality control.

There is quite a bit of discussion on contingent faculty. The current chair and chair-elect of FAC gave a presentation on the role of contingent faculty at the Student Success Symposium. The presentation was standing room only. The FAC is working on a white paper on Non-Tenure System faculty that should be available by the middle of the spring semester.

The Texas Council of Faculty Senates fall meeting will be October 27-28, 2017. Murray Leaf and Bill Hefley will be our university representatives.

8. **Interim Report from the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan – Doug Kiel**

There were two open forums on October 16 and 17th. Both were very constructive and spirited. Dr. Kiel was the chair of the steering committee, and his job was to coordinate development of the draft. In fall 2016 Dr. Benson gave the steering committee his 9 strategic themes to incorporate. From there Dr. Wildenthal took the reins and began conversations during Spring Break 2017. Then thirteen working groups were organized with a total of 78 members. The new plan expands on the plan from 2012-2013, and it emphasizes continued commitment to academic excellence, including the recruitment of faculty and staff. The plan anticipates devoting more effort and energy to student success and to the UT System’s emphasis on marketable skills. There is a goal of increased diversity and inclusion in the new plan, which is also part of the UT System’s Quantum Leaps. Security on Campus is a focus in the updated plan as is an increase in the arts. The draft also addresses the need for increased funding of stipends for graduate students. It encourages development of relationships with UT Southwestern and UT Arlington. In the past 10 years our university has engaged with UT Southwestern in $17 million in co-funded research. There is an increased focus on commercialization of invention and innovation at the university.

There are also financial challenges on our campus which will need to be addressed. This year only 18% of the university’s revenue will come from state funding. It is anticipated that efficiencies on campus would be obtained with decentralization, including a move toward departmental structures and a transfer of control down to the unit level. The final draft of the Strategic Plan should be delivered to Dr. Benson within the next two weeks. The steering committee will then begin implication plans.

Dr. Kiel offered to speak with any of the faculty after the session regarding the strategic plan. He opened the floor to questions. There were none.
8. **Student Government Report- J. W. Van Der Schans**

The Public Arts initiative is progressing. Conversations have occurred between the leader of the student union as well as Dr. Fitch to have student art exhibited within the student union, SSB and SSB2. A curator board will be created with staff, faculty and student input to approve exhibited art which would be rotated on a monthly, or yearly basis. The whole idea that the student union is for students, and student art should be exhibited there. With the loss of the Art Barn this will assist students in seeing that the university appreciates student artworks.

J. W. Van Der Schans has been working to fill all the positions on university wide committees. Many students have declined appointments due to schedule conflicts and workload issues. SG plans to use social media to fill the last 4 committees with student representatives. A majority of University committees have had student participation this fall. This is a vast improvement from the past.

J. W. Van Der Schans and the SG Vice President attended the September UT System Student Advisory Council in Austin where they met with student government representatives from all the other UT System campuses. Mr. Van Der Schans was voted leader of the Student Academic Success Committee. The committee will give a presentation to the Regents in spring 2018. They propose to improve advising, textbook accessibility, student engagement. Some of the other universities are discussing the cap program as our university does not have that program.

The SG Legislative Affairs committee is organizing a debate to discuss in a positive, controlled manner contentious issues that are affecting the current political environment. They are also creating short informational videos on current legislative issues that affect students. Lastly the Student Affairs committee was approached by Investigator Melanie Cleveland, who deals with non-violent crime on our campus, regarding a Richardson-wide rash of bikes being stolen. Cable locks used by students on campus are being cut, and the bikes are taken away. SG is working to rectify that problem.

Mr. Van Der Schans reminded the senate members that SG has been attempting to stream their meetings online, but that they have been having technical issues. They are continuing to work toward having their meetings streamed consistently.

9. **CEP Recommendations**

   A. 2017 Course Inventory- Undergraduate

   Five undergraduate courses were added to the 2017-2018 course catalog, one of which was repeatable. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the undergraduate courses. The motion carried.

   B. 2017 Course Inventory- Graduate

   Three graduate courses were added to the 2017-2018 course catalog, and none were repeatable. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the graduate courses. The motion carried.

   C. Re-Entry or Re-Application for Master Students and Additional Information about Repeating Graduate Courses
A request for a catalog policy review came from JSOM. There was confusing language regarding re-entry of graduate students. The students have six years to return to the university, or they will have to re-apply to the program. The revisions made to the policy detailed the policy requirements for re-entry. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the catalog changes. The motion carried.

D. Revision to UTDPP 1052
During a recent review, it was found that there was a discrepancy between the catalog policy on additional master's degrees and UTDPP1052. The policy was updated to bring them both into alignment. Clint Peinhardt moved on behalf of CEP to approve the changes to UTDPP 1052. The motion carried.

E. Admissions Consideration for Applicants with Three-Year Undergraduate Degrees
The statement was updated to reflect not only master's students, but also doctoral students as well. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to the policy. The motion carried.

10. FY17 Annual Committee Reports – David Cordell
David Cordell moved to accept the Institutional Care and Use Committee annual report. Andrew Blanchard seconded. The motion carried.

11. Updates to Committee on Committee Recommendations – Murray Leaf
Marilyn Waligore of A&H was recommended to replace David Channell on the Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel as a member, to complete his term. Linda Thibodeau from BBS was recommended to replace Margret Owen as a member of the Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel for a term of one year. Robert Lowry was recommend to replace David Channell as chair of the Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel. Susan Chizeck was recommended to replace Pia Jakobsson as vice-chair of the Library Committee. Elena Katok declined the appointment to the Committee on Faculty Mentoring. The Committee on Committees noted that given the charge of the Committee on Faculty Mentoring, a replacement is not immediately required, and thus a replacement was not appointed. Bill Hefley moved to approved all the Committee on Committee recommendation. Joe Izen seconded. The motion carried.

12. Adjournment
There being no further business, President Benson adjourned the meeting at 2:16 PM.

APPROVED: [Signature]
Murray Leaf,
Speaker of the Faculty