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
November 15, 2017

Present: Richard Benson, Hobson Wildenthal, Inga Musselman, Robert Ackerman, Elizabeth Bell, Kurt Beron, Diresh Bhatia, Andrew Blanchard, Gary Bolton, Patrick Brandt, Thomas Brikowski, Mathew Brown, Monica Brusolo, Jonas Bunte, R. Chandrasekaran, David Cordell, Chris Davis, Greg Dess, Vladimir Dragovic, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Andrea Fumagalli, Lev Gels, Michele Hanlon, Julie Haworth, William Hefley, Jennifer Holmes, Joe Izen, Dohyeong Kim, Murray Leaf, BPS Murthi, Alexis Piquero, Ravi Prakash, Suresh Radhakrishna, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Christopher Ryan, Richard Scotch, Tonja Wissinger,


Visitors: Serenity Kng, Michele Lockhart, Jennifer McDowell, Bill Pervin, Nicole Piquero, Elizabeth Rugg, J. W. Van Der Schans, Scott Simpson, Benjamin Porter

1. Call to Order for the Academic Senate Meeting
President Benson called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. President Benson formally welcomed the new Provost, Inga Musselman. The President further updated the Senate on the search process for the new Dean of Engineering, and VP for Research. The search committees will have one-day interviews starting in January.

The UT System Board of Regents met in an executive session the week of November 6, 2017. Because it was an executive session President Benson was limited in what he could reveal, but it included an opportunity to share thoughts on the future of UT Dallas. The discussions were promising. Our University became a Carnegie R1 institution in 2016 and is now eligible for the National Research University Fund (NRUF). At the end of the fiscal year our university should begin to receive a flow of NRUF funds. President Benson cited those two items as justification for deeming UT Dallas to be considered “Tier One.” President Benson further noted that our university is an “emerged” university, instead of an emerging university. He had presented to the Strategic Planning committee a list of 24 universities that our university can benchmark against. All the schools are public and comparable in size to UT Dallas, and some have schools of medicine, although none actually include a hospital. There are many very strong universities in the set which include University of California- Berkley, University of California- Santa Barbara, Purdue, and Georgia Tech. Of the 24, 10 are AAU, and 14 are Carnegie R1, like UT Dallas. At the moment, when we benchmark against them, we rank near the bottom, due to size and some other metrics. This is not a bad thing as we are Tier 1, but the university must continue to climb the ladder and
aspire to even greater success. Our university has high benchmarks, and aims high. President Benson opened the floor to questions.

Dr. Izen inquired if formula funding was finished, or was this year an anomaly. President Benson responded that our university has over 3700 more students than the previous biennium. The formula calculated 1/3 less than the expected $10 million. The next result was $4.7 million less than what the university had in 2015. The university is trying to close that gap. A tuition proposal will be presented to the Regents on December 4, 2017. This will be considered and voted on in February. UT Dallas is the only UT System university that has only a four year fixed plan. We are planning on an annual tuition increase in addition to the four-year fixed tuition plan. For annual floating tuition, the university will ask for a 4.5% increase, and an 8% increase for the four-year fixed plan. The administration will be speaking with local legislators, and will be working with student government.

2. Approval of the Agenda
R. Chandrasekaran moved to add a modification to UTDP1033, to add specific faculty members to the ECS Dean Search Committee, and to approve the agenda with those amendments. Richard Scotch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes
Richard Scotch moved to approve the minutes. Dinesh Bhatia seconded. The motion carried.

4. Speaker’s Report – Murray Leaf
1. The institutional Conflict of Interest Committee has met and is working on a document for Senate.
2. All other item are on the agenda.

At the request of the Academic Senate a survey was conducted to determine if there is salary compression and inversion is occurring among non-tenure track faculty (NTT). A summary of the report was submitted to the senate. It was noted that each division and unit will need to look at its situation and review how it can be addressed. A suggestion was made to have the Senators take the report back to their school for further discussion and analysis. Matt Brown recommended that a further study be done on the male/female ratio among NTT faculty. Richard Scotch further recommended that the male/female analysis be done at the school level.

6. SACSCOC Reaffirmation Updates – Serenity King
The SACSCOC site visit in March will be extended a day. A subset of participants will arrive a day early to review Callier downtown and the Collin Higher Education Center in McKinney. Both of those sites will be part of the on-site review. Crystal Bard, our SACSCOC Vice President will be on campus Wednesday December 6, 2017 for our advisory meeting. She will go over the off-site committee’s report with the Advisory committee and provide the committee guidance and advice on how the findings should be addressed prior to the on-site visit in March. At the time of the meeting it was unclear with whom she would be meeting as the off-site report has not been returned yet. She will start the day with President Benson and Provost Musselman. She will also meet with the QEP.
From there it will depend on what is in the offsite report. Her last meeting of the day will be the Academic Council meeting. Ms. King opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

7. Texas Council of Faculty Senates Reports- Bill Hefley
The Texas Council of Faculty Senates’ fall 2017 Meeting, was held in Austin, TX, October 27-28, 2017. UT Dallas was represented by Dr. Murray Leaf, President of the Faculty Senate, and Dr. Bill Hefley, Member of the Faculty Senate and Academic Council. The meeting was held in conjunction with meetings of the AAUP Texas (https://www.facebook.com/AAUP-Texas-116839591760219/) and the Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT) (http://www.tact.org).

Concerns that TACT has on its agenda include the impact on state budgets of Hurricane Harvey, Title IX and its impact on state laws, dual credit courses and their quality, innovative and non-traditional delivery of courses, and educator preparation programs.

Sessions at this Fall meeting covered the AAUP Summer Institutes; remarks by Michael O’Quinn, Vice President Government Relations, Texas A&M, and The Honorable John Raney, Vice Chair of Higher Education, Texas House of Representatives; and a panel on shared governance at institutions across the state. Dr. Leaf was a member of this panel.

Reports from attending institutions addressed a number of common themes: lack of merit increases or compression-only adjustments without merit increases, faculty equity and compression, non-tenure stream faculty issues (career development, participation in governance, equity across all faculty), faculty workload issues (such as balance, class size, type of course – lecture, practicum, internship, measurement), and student retention issues. Some campuses also mentioned issues in filling positions for key administrators; e.g., one campus that relies extensively on information technology for course delivery has limited IT staff and no IT director or chief information officer.

8. UT System Faculty Advisory Council Reports- David Cordell
The FAC has not met since the last Academic Senate meeting. An executive Council meeting has occurred. Dual credit is out of the FAC’s hands and being written up by David Troutman at UT System. One of the findings is that not much money is saved by students who do dual credit. It is common for students to earn hours that do not do not fit into their degree program. The FAC Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality Committee is working on a white paper that relates to non-tenure system faculty. This will result in a best practices document to be delivered to the UT System.

8. Student Government Report- J. W. Van Der Schans
The Legislative Affairs committee is working on encouraging civil discourse among students. When the event was to occur the two students who would have represented the conservative side of the discourse could not attend. The event was changed from a debate to a digital conversation on health care. It deviated away from the initial purpose, but it was something they wanted to do.

The Public Arts Initiative has reached out to faculty, staff and students to get a finalization of the curating board. Most of the responses were tentative, but they hope to have firm answers soon.

There will be some leadership turnover since three of the Student Government committee chairs will be stepping down at the end of the fall 2017 semester. Mr. Van Der Schans and his Vice President will be attending the UT System Student Advisory Council (UT-SAC) on November 17-19, 2017. Mr. Vander Schans is reaching out to all student organizations’ leaders to have them attend
a ‘President’s Lunch’ where they can meet with the SG President and Vice President and collaborate on any issues that arise. Currently, students are uncertain about the most productive channels for obtaining information. All of the different offices and organizations on campus are using different channels to give information to students, but students are not aware that these channels exist. He opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

9. CEP Recommendations
   A. Undergrad Course Inventory for Spring 2018
      One new undergraduate course was added to the 2017-2018 course catalog. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the undergraduate course. The motion carried.

   B. Undergrad Course Inventory for 2018-2019
      29 new undergraduate courses were added, 16 courses were removed, and 295 courses were edited in the 2018-2019 course catalog. 128 of those courses were repeatable. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the undergraduate courses. The motion carried.

   C. Graduate Course Inventory for 2018-2019
      47 graduate courses were added, 31 courses were removed, 131 were edited in the 2018-2019 course catalog. 46 were repeatable. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the graduate courses. The motion carried.

   D. Revisions to UTDPP-1008- Council for Undergraduate Education
      The charge for the Council for Undergraduate Education had not been reviewed and updated since 2011. Grammatical errors were corrected as well as updating the charge with our current practices. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the amendments to the committee charge. The motion carried.

   E. Informational: Faculty Title Changes
      The committee is looking at the memo on faculty title changes. The committee heard from Lisa Bell on how ATEC is working with the titles. Clint Peinhardt recommended that if a school is looking for recommendations on how to use the new titles, please speak with Lisa Bell. The CEP representatives are looking to see how their schools are using the current titles, and CEP will bring a recommendation to a future Academic Senate meeting.

   F. Informational Item on Graduate Dean Notification for Waiver/Substitution of Courses
      Previously the Graduate Dean approved all class waivers and substitutions. The procedure was updated to specify that the respective schools’ associate dean will approve the waivers going forward. At this time Clint Peinhardt turned the floor over to Serenity King.

   G. Informational: Fields of Study Update – Serenity King
      In the last legislative session there were several bills that were designed to correct transfer problems, but many of those bills did not complete the legislative process. As a result, the Higher Education Coordinating Board is taking very seriously its authority to create a field of study curriculum. Field of study curricula include lower division courses that are required for acceptance into the degree program and that also count toward the degree program. A school cannot accept the course, but also make the student take additional courses. The field of study concept has been around for decades. It has not been well-instituted, however,
and there has been a limited number of courses. There will be nineteen field of study
courses approved by 2019, including two already approved for electrical engineering and
mechanical engineering that are effective for fall of 2018. Ms. King has already
communicated with the appropriate associate dean. This causes substantive changes to our
curriculum, and there has been push back. The university has reached out to UT Austin,
which has indicated unequivocally that it will not comply with the state law. UT Arlington
has noted that it does not plan to comply, either. Ms. King assured the Academic Senate that
the Coordinating Board will be following through with its plan. This could affect the
university when additional degree plans are sent to the Coordinating Board because the
degree plans will not be approved if the university is not following the field of study
curriculum. The university cannot effect Mechanical and Electrical engineering field of
study requirements, however, the university can send representative recommendations to be
on additional committees to provide input on those fields of study. This would insure our
university’s input on the field of study decisions. Ms. King recommended that the Faculty
Advisory Council investigate. Dr. Leaf assured her that FAC would investigate.

10. Approval of Fall 2017 Graduates – David Cordell

David Cordell moved that:

These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The
Office of Records has declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon the
completion of the current semester’s work at the necessary levels. I request, therefore, that the
Faculty Senate certify these students to graduate upon receipt of final grades, and notification of
completion of other requirements, provided that the grades are consistent with the standards for
graduation prescribed by this University. I also request that the Faculty Senate certify those students
designated as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of coursework and requirements
consistent with the standards for honors at the levels offered by this University. Andrew Blanchard
seconded. The motion carried.

David Cordell moved that:

These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean.
The Graduate Dean certifies that all of these students will be eligible for the degrees indicated upon
satisfactory completion of the current semester’s work. I request, therefore, that the Academic
Senate certify these students to receive the degrees as indicated upon receipt of final grades and
notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades received are consistent
with the standards for credit prescribed by this University. R. Chandrasekaran seconded. The
motion carried.

11. Volunteers for the Engineering Dean Search – Murray Leaf

Vlad Dragovic, Andrew Blanchard, Dinesh Bhatia, and Lisa Bell volunteered to represent the Senate
in interviewing candidates for Dean of Engineering. All four were appointed.

12. Revisions to UTDPP-1033 – Murray Leaf

R. Chandrasekaran moved to accept non-substantive changes to the committee charge. Viswanath
Ramakrishna seconded. The motion carried.

13. Updates to Committee on Committee Recommendations – Murray Leaf
Amanda Boone was recommended to replace Susie Milligan on the IRB Committee. Staff Council has approved their appointment. Greg Dess moved to approve the Committee on Committees' recommendation. Robert Ackerman seconded. The motion carried.

14. Adjournment
There being no further business, President Benson adjourned the meeting at 2:31 PM.

APPROVED: ___________________________ DATE: 21 February

Murray Leaf,
Speaker of the Faculty