

Academic Senate meeting
April 16, 2008

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 April 16, 2008

PRESENT: Mark Anderson, Indranil Bardhan, Gail Breen, Duane Buhrmester, John Burr, Cy Cantrell, R. Chandrasekaran, Sean Cotter, Juan Gonzalez, John Gooch, John Hoffman, Jennifer Holmes, Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Joe Izen, Surya Janakiraman, Marilyn Kaplan, Robert Kieschnick, Murray Leaf, Dennis Miller, Steven Nielsen, Simeon Ntafos, Ravi Prakash, Tim Redman, Young Ryu, Liz Salter

ABSENT: Titu Andreescu, James Bartlett, Kevin Curtin, Gregg Dieckmann, Gregory Earle, Warren Goux, Melinda Kane, Xinchou Lou, Paul Macalevey, Homer Montgomery, Ashutosh Prasad, Lawrence Reitzer, Nils Roemer, Mary Urquhart, Nancy Van Ness, Yunzeng Wang

VISITORS: Jay Dowling, Abby Kratz, Calvin Jamison, Kamran Kiasaleh, Robert Nelsen, Sheila Piñeres, Michael Rebello, Richard Scotch, Robert Stern, Hobson Wildenthal

1. CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. Daniel called the meeting to order. Dr. Daniel discussed his Budget Summary for 2008-2009. Discussions followed regarding budgets, funding, the issue of space on campus, use of temporary buildings, the possible expansion of the Waterview Science and Technology Center (WSTEC), student safety with the use of off campus classrooms, moving certain administrative offices to free up classroom space, possible temporary use of UT Dallas facilities by the Dallas International School (DIS), expanding class scheduling to include weekend classes, and the ground breaking ceremony for new student housing and student learning center.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Cantrell and seconded by Dr. Redman.

Dr. Redman asked that the minutes be amended to show he requested a five year budgetary figure. Dr. Leaf offered corrections to a part of the Speakers Report and to the description of action on the motion to divide the amendments to the bylaws, in order to indicate that the first part of the divided motion was accepted. The amendments were accepted by the makers. The motion as amended carried..

3. SPEAKER'S REPORT

As you probably all know, Chancellor Yudof has agreed to take the position of President of the University of California—comparable to the Chancellor of the UT System. Dr. Kenneth Shine has been appointed as interim Chancellor until a replacement can be found. I am confident that Dr. Shine will continue the basic organizational direction for the system as Chancellor Yudof, meaning that he will continue to strengthen the role of the governance systems and a sense of a partnership and division of responsibility between faculty and administration, essentially on the California model insofar as this is applicable.

The Ombuds Policy Committee continues to meet, and the problem is evolving. It appears that a major stimulus to this interest on the part of the staff is lack of satisfaction with the response of the HR office to complaints of disrespectful or abusive behavior toward staff on the part of superiors or faculty. On Tuesday, April 1st, the committee met with Larry Wilson to review what HR actually was doing, and why. There seems to be a growing sense that there are a number of distinct problems that an Ombuds, per se, might not be appropriate for, while at the same time there might not be enough “genuine” ombuds type of demand to justify establishing one. Another option for at least some of the problems might be a panel of outside mediators, while still another might be to change some of our internal—or system—policies. The committee has asked Mr. Wilson for a report on the feasibility of several options. We expect the report by the end of the month.

The policy that changes our former titles of Master and Council of Masters to Associate Dean and Council for Undergraduate Education has been approved by the Office of General Council. I believe this went forward to the OGC more than two years ago. I don't know if this is a record.

The OGC has disapproved our use of the word “definitive” to describe the effect of Senate approval of appointments to Senate committees in our policy regarding faculty appointments to Senate Committees. Alternative wording is on the agenda.

The prospectus for a Senate committee on scheduling has been circulated to the Associate Deans for Undergraduate studies.

4. FAC REPORT

Dr. Leaf had nothing further to report. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) will meet this Friday.

5. CEP

Master of Arts in Emerging Media and Communication (degree proposal)

Dr. Cantrell, for the CEP, presented the proposal for a Master of Arts degree in Emerging Media and Communication (EMAC) (M.A.)

There was discussion of what makes up Emerging Media.

Dr. Tim Redman moved that the Senate approve the proposal for a Master of Arts degree in Emerging Media and Communication (EMAC) (M.A.). The motion was seconded by Dr. Jennifer Holmes. The motion carried.

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (catalog copy)

Dr. Cantrell, for the CEP, presented catalog copy for the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Tim Redman moved that the Senate approve the catalog copy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Kieschnick. The motion carried.

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (catalog copy)

Dr. Cantrell, for the CEP, presented catalog copy for the Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Tim Redman moved that the Senate approve the catalog copy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Kieschnick. The motion carried.

6. AMENDMENT POLICY MEMORANDUM 76.-III.25.-4

Dr. Robert Nelsen presented the amendments to this policy, University Policies related to Graduate Student Teaching Assistants, Teaching Associates, and Graduate Student Research Assistants. The purpose is to provide a title under which graduate students could be assigned as the instructor of record for a course, and could be assured of having appropriate training as well as have appropriate recognition on their records.

Dr. Cy Cantrell moved that the Senate approve the amendments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Kieschnick. The motion carried.

7. AMENDMENT POLICY MEMORANDUM 78.I.2-15

Dr. Murray Leaf presented the amendments to the charge of the Parking and Transportation Committee. These were changes proposed by the Chief of Police, as RUO, plus the addition of the Director of Disabilities Services ex officio.

Dr. Jennifer Holmes moved that the Senate approve the amendments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Liz Salter. The motion carried.

8. AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS OF THE SENATE TITLE III.C.2.a

Dr. Murray Leaf presented the amendments to the bylaws, regarding elections.

Dr. Tim Redman made the motion that the Senate approve the amendments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Liz Salter.

There was discussion.

Dr. Chandrasekaran moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Simeon Ntafos. The motion to table failed on a voice vote.

A voice vote on the main motion being uncertain, the Speaker called for a show of hands. The motion carried.

9. APPROVE REVISED WORDING ON HOP III, IV, 3.2

Dr. Robert Nelsen presented the revised wording for the Handbook of Operating Procedures Title III, Chapter 21.

This amendment complements the previous amendment of the bylaws. It makes clear that the Academic Council will have at least six members. Presently, only a maximum number is specified.

Dr. Tim Redman moved that the senate approve the amendments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cy Cantrell. The motion carried.

10. APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

The Secretary of the Faculty presented the lists of candidates for undergraduate and graduate degrees for the Spring commencement and the list of candidates who otherwise have graduated in the Summer ceremony but who would walk early, and made the following motions:

Candidates for Undergraduates Degrees: These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The Office of Records 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 Academic 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 Academic 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.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Cy Cantrell. The motion carried.

Candidates for Graduate Degrees: 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.

Dr. Tim Redman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Daniel adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: _____
Speaker of the Faculty

DATE: _____