LAMAR UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 9, 2002

ATTENDANCE

Arts and Sciences: Christine Bridges-Esser, Terri Davis, George Irwin, Jim Jordan, Donna Bumpus, Bruce Drury, Dave Castle, Vernice Monroe; Max Loges, Walter Sutton, Judy Mann, Sheila Smith, Dianna Rivers, Stephanie Yearwood, Mike Mathis, Paul Nicoletto
Business: Larry Allen, Carl Montano, Celia Varick, K. C. Sen, Frank Cavaliere
Education: Fara Goulas, George Strickland, Joel Barton, Bill Holmes, Kim Griffith
Engineering: Peggy Doerschuk, Mien Jao, Valentin Andreev, Hsing-Wei Chu, John Gossage. Absent: David Read
Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Gilman, Prince Thomas, Zanthia Smith, Travis Almany, Larry Elliott, Anne Matlock
Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble
Library: Jon Tritsch, Sarah Tusa
Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel

CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate President Bruce Drury called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

MINUTES

The September 4, 2002 minutes were approved with a correction.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Bruce Drury reported the following:

1. The Administrative Review Committees for the evaluation of three deans are now in place. The members are:

College of Fine Arts and Communication (Dean Schultz)
Jean Andrews Dale Ortego (external)
Robert Culbertson Lynne Lokensgard (internal)
Pat Harrigan, Chair

College of Education & Human Development (Dean Westerfield)
Joel Barton Cruse Melvin (external)
Andrea Karlin Kim Wallet-Chalambaga (internal)
Connie Ruiz, Chair

College of Engineering (Dean Hopper)
T. C. Ho Chris Bridges (external)
John Harvill (Math) Hsing-Wei Chu (internal)
Charles Coppin, Chair

2. The position of Library Director has been filled on an interim basis for now 27 months. Kathleen Murray, the first interim, retired last year, and the current interim, Linda Dugger, is scheduled to retire in January 2004. In an effort to make the position more attractive, Dr. Doblin is proposing to increase the salary and change the name of the position to “Dean of Library Services”. I have appointed Max Loges to represent the faculty on the new committee.

3. Most of the class time missed as a result of Hurricane Lili must be made up. Four proposals will be offered for your consideration under the Faculty Issues Report.

4. There is a rumor going around that your connection to the university system will be terminated on December 1 if you are not using Windows 2002 or Windows XP. THIS MAY BE TRUE, although it is questionable whether we have the money and personnel to make the change in the next two months. Further more, the decision to change to XP was made without significant discussion among faculty. More on this later.

5. An ad hoc committee is about to propose a new faculty evaluation system for us to discuss. If the recommendation is for a common instrument for the University, such a system would make it easier for organizations such as Pick-a-Prof to get grades. We assume that faculty members do not want grade summaries published but we don’t know that. Is it true? Please ask your colleagues how they feel about this matter.

6. The University of South Carolina, as part of its “The First Year Experience” program, selects a First-Year-Student Advocate. Dr Doblin is looking for nominees. You can suggest to your dean or me a professor, an administrator or staff person who has been particularly helpful in getting freshmen off to a strong start. The University will nominate one person.

7. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates will meet in Austin on October 25-26.

8. Encourage your colleagues and students to attend the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Sponsored by Southwestern Bell on Monday, Oct. 14 at 8:00 PM in the University Theatre.

COMMITTEE REPORTS ON PROPOSED AGENDA

Academic Issues: Christine Bridges-Esser. The plagiarism web site has been posted. Kurt Gilman, Secretary of the Senate, will work on creating an appropriate heading to aid in identifying the site.

Faculty Issues: Bill Holmes. The college committee/council election process will be reviewed once the current elections have been completed. There has been a recommendation to expand the Graduate Council. There was a discussion of the proposed schedule changes as a result of Hurricane Lili. It was moved by Teri Davis and seconded by Chris Bridges-Esser that the fourth option be recommended by the full Senate. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The committee will continue to review the situation concerning Academic Computing.

Budget and Compensation: Valentin Andreev. Valentin distributed a list of the salaries of our administrators for the information of the Senate. There is a feeling that too many faculty are routinely teaching overloads. The committee is checking the status of adjuncts pay, which is currently $2,000.00. Some adjuncts also receive health benefits. President Drury asked the committee to check on the computer use fee.

Faculty Development and Research: Judy Mann. George Strickland has been elected Vice Chair of the committee. The committee continues to seek applications for Development Leaves and is in the midst of that process. They are also considering a couple of options for enhancing leave possibilities. A sub committee will work on these options. Dr. Drury asked the committee to check on a new research enhancement proposal that is under consideration by the deans.

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Sarah Tusa. The upcoming lecture by Jim Sanderson, at 8:00 PM on Monday, October 14, 2002 in the University Theatre, was announced. Sarah called for senators interested in being part of the new committee to identify themselves.

Staff Appreciation Day: Mark Asteris. Staff Appreciation day was moved to February 7th to avoid conflicts at the Montagne Center.

OLD BUSINESS

Compensation for Web Based Courses: This proposal was withdrawn by Dr. Andreev.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Academic Computing: Senator Mark Asteris spoke to the general feeling of frustration with Central Computing in setting policies and securing new equipment without consulting the Academic Computing Committee. Several senators expressed concerns and anger about their difficulty in getting reasonable service from Central Computing. Walter Sutton presented a resolution, seconded by Chris Bridges, concerning Academic Computing ( see appendix I). The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

2. Pay for Adjuncts, Overloads: The Budget and Compensation Committee is working on this issue, and it will be on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting with President Simmons and EVPAA Doblin.

3. Change of Title from Library Director to Dean of Library Services: The Senate unanimously endorsed the proposed change.

4. Commendation for the Lamar Administration: Peggy Doerschuk introduced a resolution commending President Simmons and EVPAA Doblin and other members of the Lamar Administration for their fast and effective handling of the threat of Hurricane Lili (see appendix II). Peggy moved adoption, and after a second by Dianna Rivers, the motion passed unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION/COMMENTS

Items discussed in open forum were: lack of developmental and mentoring resources and the possibility of a group support service; elimination of classes on the day before Thanksgiving; books for graduate classes not available at Kampus Korner Bookstore; inconsistent contact hours for Summer II and Mini Sessions; and conflict of interest problems for members of the Development and Research Committee.

APPENDIX I

RESOLUTION

Whereas proposals of the Lamar Information Technologies Department (such as the 5 year IT Strategic plan) concerning Academics are not discussed with the Academic Computing Committee, Faculty Senate or any other group concerned with Academics prior to a requested affirmation vote from the IT Department;

Whereas proposals of the Lamar University Information Technologies Department (such as the PC Replacement Plan) that impact the operations of Academic Departments are also not discussed prior to a requested affirmation vote from the IT Department;

Whereas proposals of the Lamar University Information Technologies Department (such as the proposed network access charges) that impact the budgets of the Academic Departments are also not discussed prior to a requested affirmation vote from the IT Department;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Lamar University urges the university administration as soon as possible to form an ad hoc committee composed of members from Academic Computing, Administrative Computing, Telecommunications Committee, Distance Ed and WWW Committees, and other faculty with appropriate expertise, to address the communication and coordination issues between academics and the IT Department. Furthermore the Faculty Senate requests a review of the Computer Use Fee currently charged Lamar University Students.

APPENDIX II

COMMENDATION FOR THE LAMAR ADMINISTRATION

Whereas hurricanes and tropical storms provide a continuing threat to the lives and property of the students, staff, administration, and faculty of Lamar University, and;

Whereas in the past the procedures for coping with the problems presented by this threat have been, at best, ill-defined, and;

Whereas during the recent threat by hurricane Lili classes were dismissed in a timely fashion, providing for adequate time for protective measures and evacuation; the dismissal of classes was widely and effectively publicized; and a well organized plan was carried out for the safe and orderly evacuation of dormitory students,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate commends Dr. Simmons, Dr. Doblin, and other members of the Lamar Administration for a job well done.