LAMAR UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

ATTENDANCE

Arts and Sciences: Rick Altemose, Christine Bridges, Donna Bumpus, Don Carey, Dave Castle, Terri Davis, Paul Griffith, Martha Rinker, Dianna Rivers, Lee Thompson, Iva Hall, Paul Nicoletto, Sheila Smith, Jim Sanderson, Mike Mathis; Absent: George Irwin, Jim Jordan, Steve Zani
Business: Larry Allen, Jai Young Choi, Larry Spradley; Absent: Alice Flosi, Carl Montano, Celia Varick
Education: Kimberly Chalambaga, Fara Goulas, Lula Henry, Bill Holmes, George McLaughlin, Bernadette Moore, George Strickland
Engineering: Valentin Andreev, Hsing Wei Chu, Peggy Doerschuk, John Gossage, Bernard Maxum, Mien Jao, David Read; Absent: Alec Matheson
Fine Arts and Communication: Kim Ellis, Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Sumalai Maroonroge, Nicki Michaelski, Zanthia Smith, Prince Thomas
Library: Rick Dyson, Jon Tritsch
Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble
LSCPA: Mavis Treibel

CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate President Peggy Doerschuk called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Faculty Senate President Peggy Doerschuk presented Dr. Bruce Drury with an award for distinguished service as president of the Faculty Senate for the past two years.

MINUTES

The minutes for from April 2 and May 7 were both approved as amended.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. First day enrollment was 10,191 students, up 8.4% from one year ago and up 20.5% from two years ago. This year’s enrollment is the largest since we split from Lamar Institute of Technology. As of today, enrollment is over 10,500, and final enrollment is projected to be about 10,600.
2. Staff will receive 2% pay raises across the board, a 2% merit pool will be set aside for faculty, and an additional $300,000 will be devoted to equity, all effective November 1.
3. Hiring freezes on faculty and staff positions have been lifted. This represents 20-30 faculty positions. In addition, the administration plans to add 100 faculty over the next four years, 10 of which will be endowed. A four-year financial plan is being developed to project enrollment and tuition needed to continue to address salary issues and add new faculty. Allocation of new faculty lines will be prioritized by the Academic Master Plan Committee. AMP also has been charged with examining the structure of the academic units in light of this growth.
4. Brooks hall has been renovated, and Cardinal Village III has been approved.
5. Four chairs are due for formal evaluation this year: History, Psychology, Chemical Engineering, Accounting and Business Law. In addition, the Associate Dean of the College of Business will undergo formal evaluation this year.
6. The big challenge of the next few years will be to ensure the quality of our students’ education and the welfare of our faculty in the wake of increased enrollment and decreased state funding. We must ensure that class sizes do not get too large and that we do not rely excessively on overloads and adjunct instructors. We must ensure that performance expectations for faculty are realistic and that performance evaluation is fair. We must ensure that faculty workloads are equitable and manageable and that our faculty receive fair compensation. We must ensure that we continue to develop our faculty to keep them current in their fields and active in scholarly production. I ask that the standing committees give these issues priority as they establish their agendas for this year.
7. The proposed new time frame, forms, and format for tenure and promotion will not be enacted until the Senate has had time to review and provide its feedback on the proposed changes. We will continue to use the ‘old’ or ‘current’ calendar, forms, and format for this year. The Faculty Issues Committee should consider the proposed changes and give its recommendation to the Senate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairs and their committees met briefly to discuss a proposed agenda for the 2003-2004 session. The chairs then reported the following agendas.

Academic Issues: Terri Davis. The AI Committee will consider the following:
1. The establishment and enforcement of standards for maximum class sizes for (a) undergraduate service courses (b) undergraduate major courses, and (c) graduate courses
2. Policies concerning the use of adjuncts
3. Computer security
4. Academic computing issues
5. The possibility of enabling academic field trips

Faculty Issues: Hsing Wei Chu. The Faculty Issues Committee will look at the following issues:
1. Faculty annual evaluation
2. Post tenure review
3. Tenure and promotion criteria and process
4. Faculty resources
5. Minimum number of faculty in a degree program
6. The Piper Award

Budget and Compensation: Ann Matlock. B and C will consider the following:
1. Faculty workload, including graduate faculty
2. Salary administration, including raises, salary ranges and promotion and merit raises.

Development and Research: George Strickland. George handed out to the committee several items to help new and “old’ members to understand their mission, including:
1. Kevin Smith’s memo dated August 30
2. The presentation packet for the committee
3. The minutes of the committee’s meeting in May, 2003
4. The actual development leave application form
5. The committee application review criteria
The normal meeting time for this month will be deferred to the two opportunities to view Paul Nicoletto’s presentation that will help faculty to submit a successful application. The presentation will be made two times, Wednesday and Thursday, September 10 and 11 at 2:00 p.m. in room 210 Setzer Student Center. Committee members are encouraged to attend one of the presentations. The next committee meetings will be Wednesday, October 8 and November 12 in the Galloway Business Dean’s Conference Room on the second floor. The committee discussed the desires of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to provide opportunities for faculty development. Also, Prince Thomas was elected vice chair of the committee.

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer; Dianna Rivers. Dianna announced that Dr. Richard Harrel will deliver his 2003 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer’s Address at 8;00 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 2003, in the University Theatre. A guests-only dinner will precede the lecture and following the lecture, a reception in the Dishman Art Museum will be open to all.

Staff Appreciation Day: Mark Asteris. No Report.

Ad Hoc Committee: Bill Holmes. The committee is considering issues concerning the Engineering Dean, including:
1. Policies and procedures
2. Shared governance
3. Fair and equitable representation of all the departments

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

President Doerschuk announced that Roger Cooper has been elected to replace Jim Jordan on the Faculty Senate.

OPEN COMMENTS

No open comments were presented.

ADJOURN

The September 3, 2003 Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m