LAMAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2005

Senators Present: Rebecca Boone (attending for Lee Thompson); Mavis Triebel; Sandra Brannan; Peggy Doerschuk; Paul Nicoletto; Christine Bridges-Esser; Terri Davis; Rick Altemose; Valentin Andreev; Dave Castle; Alec Matheson; Dennis Miller; Dianna Rivers; Emma Hawkins; Steve Zani; Jim Cammack; Celia Varick; Larry Allen; Nhung Nguyen; George Strickland; Lula Henry; Bill Holmes; Bernadette Moore; Paul Corder; Mien Jao; Hsing-wei Chu; Benard Maxum; O’Brien Stanley; Jeff Wisor; Ann Matlock; Nicki Michalski; Jeff Lacy; Sarah Tusa; Joe Kemble; Fara Goulas; Sumalai Manroonroga; Jai Young Choi; Kakoli Bandyopadhyay; Shelia Smith; Iva Hall; Don Owen.

Senators Absent: George Irwin; Paul Griffith; Kimberly Chalambaga; Dan Chilek; Kim Ellis; John Gossage; Martha Rinker; Kurt Dythaug.

1. President Bill Holmes called the Faculty Senate to order at 3:00 p.m., February 2, 2005.
2. The December, 2004 Faculty Senate Minutes were amended by inserting the word unanimously to the resolution regarding the new grade appeal form. Lula Henry made a motion and Dianna Rivers seconded to accept the amended minutes. The minutes were approved.
3. Hla Tlou, the campus bookstore manager, and Brian Esquivel, the textbook manager, made a presentation concerning better coordination between faculty and the bookstore when ordering textbooks.
4. President Bill Holmes reported on the following items:
1) Staff Appreciation Announcement – Mark Asteris (4-15-05).

2) Bookstore Manager (Hla Tlou) – Information related to textbooks and discussion of questions from faculty.

3) The Equity Committee is functioning under the able leadership of its chair, Valentin Andreev.

• Valentin reported that a survey is going to faculty to determine satisfaction with the previous equity process.

4) Update on Construction Projects:

• New Dining Hall – started (to be completed spring 2006)
• Sports Recreation Center – March start (to be completed fall 2006)
• Old Dining Hall – start spring 2006 (to be completed fall 2006)
• Cardinal Village IV is on hold for now.

5) A consulting firm (Alexander Haas) has been retained and is working on the early stages of a feasibility study for a fundraising campaign.

6) The recommendation for Faculty Developmental Leave and Research which the Senate approved in December has been fully funded pending Board of Regents approval at February meeting.

7) We have received a new draft of the Grade Appeal Process, and it is being reviewed by the Academic Issues Committee.

8) A new Chancellor will assume duties at the TSUS office February 1, 2005. His name is Charles Matthews, who was the Railroad Commissioner and is finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Texas.

9) I will attend the TCFS meeting in Austin, February 18-19, 2005.

10) The Faculty Senate Representative on a new ad hoc committee to evaluate the pilot study related to online evaluation of courses is Diana Rivers.

11) The Faculty Senate Representative on a new ad hoc committee to study policies and procedures related to student dishonesty is Fara Goulas.

12) It is almost time to conduct elections for Faculty Senators and Representatives to the various University committees and councils. The guidelines indicate we should have this process completed by April 15, but I hope we will be finished by the end of March. I will be asking some of you to assist in this process.

13) Homecoming activities (February 25-26, 2005).

5. Committee Reports:
1) Academic Issues: Terri Davis
• The new grade appeal process was unanimously approved by the committee.
• The committee is discussing use of overloads and adjuncts; however, it is difficult as everything is based on FTEs. They may survey Department chairs as to the number of adjuncts and overloads.
• Concerning grade replacement policy, the Lamar system automatically replaces the most recent course taken.
• The committee is continuing to examine the delicate subject of special acceptance students.
• Nicki Michalski reported on students obtaining Lamar handicapped parking hangers, as there seemed to be faculty concerned about the necessity of having to obtain a special hanger when Texas issues them. There was concern that some students didn’t seem to be handicapped however, ADA indicates that the person cannot be questioned. It was noted that the driver’s license number is written on the hanger.
2) Faculty Issues: Hsing-Wei Chu
• The Faculty is using the new F2.08.
• The status of the Chairs and Dean evaluations were reported.
• Tuition waivers for employee dependents are being discussed.
• Identification of a New Faculty Liaison was referred to this committee.
• Child care facility for faculty was referred to this committee.
3) Budget & Compensation: Ann Matlock
• The committee will meet next week.
• Discussing the possibility of a new salary line to allow visiting scholars.
• The committee is concerned and will bring a report back to the faculty senate about recent reports of House Bill 310 written about in an Austin newspaper concerning the reduction of TRS health care benefits.
4) Development and Research: Rick Altemose
• The committee will be discussing the process of recommendation of faculty development leaves as it is felt by the committee that currently leaves are not granted to the best faculty development proposal, but to the best research project.
5) Distinguished Lecturer: Fara Goulas
• New date for the next Distinguished Faculty Lecture is Monday, October 17, 2005.
6. Old Business: None

7. New Business: None

8. Open Discussion Comments:
1) Steve Zani was concerned about faculty not being able to use the student health center for emergency service. He told of one faculty member who had the flu, went to the health center and was refused service. He asked, “Why don’t the faculty and staff get the same service?” This matter was referred to the faculty Issues Committee. A comment was made about not getting 3rd party reimbursement.
2) Alec Matheson reported that the University IT steering committee indicates that Microsoft will no longer support NT. He also indicated that Faculty would be receiving a six-digit long distance code in the spring. The advantages are that faculty can make a call on someone else’s phone using the six-digit number. The only disadvantage is that the number will have to be remembered.
3) Mavis Triebel reported that one can log-on to the Texas Railroad Commission web site to find information on the new Texas State University System chancellor.
4) Bernadette Moore reported that the faculty members in Health & Kinesiology were concerned about the availability of reserved parking over the next few years since McDonald Gym remodeling will cause loss of reserved spots on that side of the parking lot. She requested that more spots be allocated to faculty on the Women’s Gym side of the parking lot.
9. The meeting was adjourned.

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