LAMAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2005

Senators Present: Arts & Sciences: Sandra Brannan, Roger Cooper, Christine Bridges-Esser, Rick Altemose, Valentin Andreev, Alec Matheson, Paul Nicoletto, Martha Rinker, Dianna Rivers, Rebecca Boone, Iva Hall, Shelia Smith, Emma Hawkins, Steve Zani, Business: Kakoli Bandyopadhyay, Celia Varick, Larry Allen, Jai Young Choi, Education: Fara Goulas, Kimberly Chalambaga, Dan Chilek, Lula Henry, Bill Holmes, Bernadette Moore, Engineering: Mien Jao, Hsing-wei Chu, Bernard Maxum, Fine Arts & Sciences: Ann Matlock, Sumalai Maroonroge, Nicki Michalski, Library: Jeff Lacy, Sarah Tusa, Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble, Lamar State College PA: Mavis Triebel

Senators Absent: Peggy Doerschuk, George Irwin, Don Owen, Terri Davis, Dave Castle, Paul Griffith, Dennis Miller, Mike Matthis, Jim Cammack, Nhung Nguyen, George Strickland, Paul Corder, John Gossage, Kurt Dyrhaug, O’Brien Stanley, Jeff Wisor, Kim Ellis,

President Bill Holmes called the Faculty Senate to order at 3:00 pm, March 2, 2005.
1. The February 2, 2005 Faculty Senate Minutes were amended by inserting the following item under Faculty Concerns: Bernadette Moore reported that the faculty 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. Lula Henry made a motion and Valentine Andreev seconded to accept the amended minutes. The minutes were approved.
2. Mark Asteris reported on progress with Staff Appreciation day scheduled for April 15, 2005. He will be sending letters approximately April 1 to faculty, administration and staff soliciting funds for the luncheon event.
3. President Bill Holmes extended condolences to Terri Davis and family with the recent death of her mother.
4. President Bill Holmes reported on the following items:

1) In light of the present lack of clarity related to funding for Higher Education, President Simmons has taken steps to protect his top faculty/staff priorities of merit raises, funding the equity plan, and promotion raises. These steps involve a hold, for now, on new
positions and a careful review before filling vacant positions. The President has emphasized that the University is in good shape financially, and he is just taking steps that are wise and prudent given the present situation.

2) Report from TCFS meeting held February 18-19, 2005, in Austin, Texas

a. Legislative update
b. Coordinating Board website workshop
c. Reports and discussion related to drop and add policies, who owns evaluation results (forms), and academic freedom issues
d. Speaker Dr. Russell C. Long, President, West Texas A&M University. He stressed the need to be sure that legislators know our concerns well before they go into session.
e. TSUS CFS had two meetings:

i. Planning and election of Chair (Mavis Triebel, LSC-PA)
ii. General discussion with TSUS Director of Planning and Construction, Lamar Urbanovsky, and TSUS Vice-Chancellor, Kenneth Craycraft.

3) Elections for University Committees and Faculty Senate will be conducted this month. The election official for each College is as follows:

Arts & Sciences – Terri Davis
Business – Larry Allen
Education – George Strickland
Engineering – Hsing-wei Chu
Fine Arts & Communication – Ann Matlock
Library – Jeff Lacy

4) Request from Director of University Honors Program related to Honors Program Faculty Compensation. Refer to Budget and Compensation Committee.

5) Request from Howell Gwin, Professor of History, related to difficulties in the production of brochures for College of Arts and Sciences. I will follow-up on this issue.

6) The Faculty Senate Representative on the Institutional Effectiveness Committee is Christine Bridges.

7) The Faculty Senate Representative on the Quality Enhancement Plan Development Committee is Fara Goulas.

8) Just a reminder to encourage your students to attend the Spring Academic Lecture Series on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Montagne Center featuring Henry Winkler. He will also meet with interested students from 4:30 – 5:30 in the Library Building.

9) Workload percentages on F2.08 are to serve as a guide. If there is a good reason, there may be exceptions. This agreement is to be worked out between the faculty member and the chair.

10) A reminder about the SACS orientation for all faculty members on Friday, March 4, 2005.

5. Committee Reports:
1) Academic Issues: Terri Davis -- Reported by Jeff Lacy in Terri Davis’
Absence
The Committee is investigating the issues with Individual Approval students. They have talked with Jim Rush, Director of Admissions, Joe Nordgren, Chair of the Admissions Committee, and obtained data from Institutional Research. A Summary of their findings follows:
• Admissions status is based on SAT scores and high school quartile.
• Students with SAT scores below the minimum of their quartile, but above 800, are automatically offered qualified admission as an “Individual Approval” student under the stipulations outlined in the undergraduate catalog.
• Students with SAT scores below 800 are denied admission, but have the option to appeal to the Admissions Committee, which may choose to admit them based upon a review of their application materials, high school transcripts, SAT scores, and letter of appeal.
• Data from Institutional Research indicate that there were more Individual Approval students admitted in Fall 2004 than were approved by the Admissions Committee
Evidently, the Admissions Committee is not the only body on campus with the authority to admit low SAT students. This issue will be pursued further. The Committee will meet next week.

2) Faculty Issues: Hsing Wei Chu
• Lamar University has chosen the FAS Relocation Network to provide relocation service to new faculty. The benefits provided are: Homeowner Assistance, Rental Property Assistance, Financial Services and Van Line Services.

• Lamar University has the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) to provide child-care services. The service and educational programs serve children from 18 months to 10 years of age. ECDC open to the public with priority given to Lamar faculty and students.

• The Faculty Issues Subcommittee discussed the issue of tuition reduction for faculty dependents. However, such benefit is not allowed for public Universities in Texas.

• Director of Student Health listed some potential problems regarding Faculty Use of Health Center. The Faculty Issue Sub-committee will study the problems this month.

3) Budget and Compensation: Ann Matlock
• The Committee is looking into the retirement system and health benefits. Mary Alice Baker will give a presentation and answer any questions at the Committee’s meeting next Wednesday, 3pm, in room 218 Galloway.

• They are also tracking to see if Chairs are using the form for informing faculty on Equity and Merit Raises. The Committee would like anecdotal evidence from us to see if we are satisfied with the use of the form by the Chairs. Contact Ann with your feedback.

4) Development and Research: Rick Altemose
• The Committee is continuing to study the development and leave process and will have more concrete information next month.

5) Distinguished Faculty Lecture (DFL): Fara Goulas
• The nomination date for the DFL has been extended to March 7, 2005. Copies announcing solicitation of nominations have been distributed to all faculty and sent via email. Fara thanked Dianna for helping to orient her and for “being the wind beneath my wings”.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business: None

8. Open Discussion/Comments

• Procedure for evaluation of Deans and Chairs: Valentine Andreev requested feedback on how satisfied we are with the process, which was developed 6-7 years ago. He suggested that Faculty Issues survey the faculty or Faculty Senate.
• Concern expressed about the new faculty evaluation process and that subjectivity still seems to be present. This concern was referred to the Faculty Issues Committee.
• Roger Cooper voiced concern about estimating the faculty member’s workload percentages in the new F2.08. There was considerable discussion including the philosophy of requiring this detail of faculty. Bill Holmes stated that the President and Provost indicated that they were to be guides and could be revised with the Chair as the year ensued.
• The need for a policy concerning cell phones in class was referred to the Academic Issues Committee.
• Alec Matheson is following up on getting electronic class rolls for faculty and on the long distance phone transition.
• There was discussion on the recent TACT meeting attended by Joe Kemble and Bernie Maxum.
• Chris Bridges brought up the issue of inconsistent university and departmental policies on plagiarism. Bill Holmes suggested the issue be placed on the agenda of a new ad hoc committee being formed by the Provost to study this type of issue.
• LU email system: It was questioned how long the hal email system will be used. The issue was referred to Alec Matheson to take to the University IT Committee.

9. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dianna L. Rivers for George Strickland, Secretary