LAMAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2005

Senators Present: Arts & Sciences: Sandra Brannan, Christine Bridges, George Irwin, Don Owen, Rick Altemose, Valentin Andreev, Dale Daniel, Emma Hawkins, Mary Kelley, Jim Love, Mike Matthis, Dianna Rivers, Jeremy Shelton, Shelia Smith, Business: Kakoli Bandyopadhya, Celia Varick, Jai Young Choi, Education: Fara Goulas, George Strickland, Kim Chalambaga, Bill Holmes, Engineering: Hsing-wei Chu, Brian Craig, John Gossage, Bernard Maxum, Paul Corder, Mien Jao, Fine Arts & Communication: Kurt Dyrhaug, Connie Barker, Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski, Library: Jeff Lacy, Theresa Storey, Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble.

Senators Absent: Arts & Sciences: Terri Davis, Peggy Doerschuk, Paul Nicoletto, Dave Castle, Steve Zani, Education: Andrea Karlin, Bernadette Moore, Fine Arts & Communication: O'Brien Stanley, Jeff Wisor.

1. The meeting was called to order by President, Bill Holmes at 3:05 p.m.

2. A motion was made by Nicki Michalski and seconded by Ann Matlock to approve the amended minutes from May 4, 2005.

3. President’s Report:

• Last year I prefaced my first President’s report by offering five areas of priority for 2004 – 2005: faculty salaries, new equity planning, faculty development and research, more faculty and enhanced communication throughout the university. For 2005 – 2006, I want to reaffirm these priorities. We have made progress in each area, but more remains to be done.

• The university Long-Range Planning Committee is involved in a strategic planning process and will soon distribute a draft of Lamar University Core Values and Strategic Directions for comment and/or revision.

• A few elections/appointments need to be completed. You have a list of the vacant positions.

• Please review the proposed new structure for mini session class periods and share feedback with the Academic Affairs Committee. (Handout)

• Please review both pages of possible new summer schedule alternatives and share feedback with the Academic Affairs Committee. (Handout)

• A bereavement leave policy for students was approved last June. (Handout)

• You have been given the names of the members of the Administrative Review Committees for the deans to be evaluated this year.

• A draft revision for Section 23.2 of the Faculty Handbook has been distributed by the Student Honesty Committee. Please let the Academic Affairs Committee know how you feel about the suggested revision. (Handout)

• Please read about Constitution Week events at Gray Library. (Handout)

• Terri Davis will be the keynote speaker for a Constitution Day program at 2:00 p.m. on September 14, 2005 in the Gray Library. (Handout)

• You have been given a memo related to faculty development leaves and the corrected schedule for the process.

• There have been changes in the Lamar University automobile insurance policy. Please read about the changes in your handout.

• The chairs to be evaluated this year are: Coppin, Crawford, Curl, Martin, Meeks, Osborne, Srinivasan and Warren.

• The TSUS Board approved a five dollar per hour increase in tuition for Spring 2006.

• Cardinal Village is full and there is an overflow to Brooks Hall

• Remember to attend one or more of the meetings scheduled for September 16, 2005, with representatives from OnlineCourseEvaluations.com to discuss online course evaluations.

• Provost will meet with faculty regarding third year review of Dean Bradley on September 9, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in Landes Auditorium.

• Attention is being given to putting merit policies and procedures on the web.

• Discussion is ongoing related to the new law that mandates degree hours not exceed 120, with certain exceptions.

• Distinguished Faculty Lecturer lecture Monday, October 17, 2005. Committee report later.

• The budget for fiscal year 2006 should be on the web within the next two weeks.

4. Committee Reports
• Academic Issues: Nicki Michalski reported for Terri Davis that this committee supported the University’s enforcement of academic standards for students being admitted to Lamar. The committee would like feedback on: the schedule recommendations; the dishonesty policy; and parking policy.
• Faculty Issues: Hsing-Wei Chu mentioned that working sessions about the online course evaluation will be offered on Sept.16 in Landes Auditorium. Dr.Bradley's third year review presentation will be held at 1:00 pm on Sept.9 in Landes Auditorium. The committee also will study accommodation issues for student with disabilities.

• Budget & Compensation: Ann Matlock reported that the committee will follow the development of the equity process particularly asking if faculty received merit, equity, promotion categorization.
• Development and Research: Rick Altemose reviewed the new Developmental Leave policy which is attached.
• Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Fara Goulas reported that the Distinguished Faculty Lecture has a new sponsor, ExxonMobil. She also reminded the senate of the date, October 17, 7:30 p.m. and announced that Lamar will have new equipment and screen for adequate projection capabilities. Dr. Kenneth Rivers is the DFL for this year & his topic is “The Meaning of Movies: 100 Years of Cinema in the U.S. and Around the World.” Fara encouraged the entire faculty to attend since this is our Faculty Senate sponsored event for the year.

5. Old Business: None

6. New Business

• A motion was made by Shelia Smith and seconded by Fara Goulas to elect Sandra Brannan as the representative to the Academic Information Technology Committee. The motion carried.
• A motion was made by Valentin Andreev and seconded by Chris Bridges to elect Jim Love as the representative to Curriculum Council. The motion carried.
• A motion was made by Rick Altemose and seconded by Dianna Rivers to elect Peggy Doerschuk representative to University Information Technology Committee. The motion carried.

7. Open Discussion/Comments
• The university bookstore refuses to order Developmental Studies text books. Other comments were made that the bookstore will not purchase new editions when the previous edition is still in stock. Students are told, “The new edition has not changed that much.”
• There was concern that we will have to change our e-mail addresses. It was said that the hal server is being phased out.
• Many reported that they did not care for the new on-line faculty evaluations.
• It was asked what was organized for Hurricane Katrina victims.
• It was asked when a senator is on leave should a substitute be elected.

8. A motion by Mike Matthis and seconded by Valentin Andreev to adjourn.