Lamar University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2006

Senators Present: Arts and Sciences: Valentin Andreev, Nancy Blume, Christine Bridges, David Castle, Dale Daniel, Kenneth Dorris, Jeff Forret, Emma Hawkins, Jim Love, Mike Matthis, Don Owen, Dianna Rivers, Jeremy Shelton, Sheila Smith, Randall Terry, Steve Zani; Business: Soumava Bandyopadhyay, George Kenyon, Celia Varick; Education: Kim Chalambaga, Lula Henry, Barbara Hernandez, Bill Holmes, Mary E. Wilkinson; Engineering: John Gossage, Bernard Maxum, Malur Srinivasan; Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Dyrhaug, Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski, Zanthia Smith, Randall Wheatley; Library: Theresa Hefner-Babb, Jon Tritsch; Developmental Studies: Umporn Tosirisuk; Lamar Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel

Senators Absent: Arts and Sciences: Rick Altemose, Terri Davis, George Irwin, Hikyoo Koh; Business: Kakoli Bandyopadhyay, Jai Young Choi; Education: Bernadette Moore; Engineering: Paul Corder, Brian Craig, Mien Jao; Fine Arts and Communication: Sumalai Maroonroge

1. The November 1 Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

2. Bill Holmes made a motion to approve the October 4 meeting minutes.Malur Srinivasan seconded the motion. The October 4 minutes were approved.

3. President’s Report
Fall Fest will be held this month. Nearly 40-50 students have made reservations to attend. Faculty salaries are now available on line.  Email issues continue, but the administration is looking for a vice president of information technology to assist with that and other tech issues.  Administrative costs have gone down from 12-11% TSUS is abolishing course fees. Dr. Simmons has stated that we will still have at least the same amount of funding through the new method and we will have greater flexibility in how those funds are used.
The Master planning committee has new list of repairs, moves, etc.The Long range planning committee has list of goals including attracting new faculty. Chris Bridges will talk to Ann Matlock (and committee) and Valentin about the meeting and monetary issues discussed at the meeting. The University equity plan was also discussed, the committee voted to continue the current plan for next two years to 18 months. There was a discrepancy between the posted minutes and what Chris Bridges experienced in the meeting. Clarification is being sought.The Academic Council meeting report stated that we have a full-time recruiter living in Houston to serve the greater Houston area.
The Nov 17-18 Regents council meeting will be on Lamar’s campus at the Gray Library. Many of the meetings will be open, and Dr Doblin has extended an invitation to faculty to attend.
The state legislature feels there are too many doctoral programs in the state so there is going to be a new level of awareness and scrutiny of those programs.
The 120 credit hour limits are still coming although there will be exceptions made for extraordinary need.
Textbook publishers are “controlling” text book prices by going electronic.
Dr Doblin has asked that faculty be reminded about policy and state law regarding giving out our passwords and pins to others for recording grades, etc.
Report from Bill Holmes on the Texas Council of Faculty Senate Fall meeting:
Friday morning the TSUS faculty senators met at 7:30 to discuss issues and prepare for a meeting with the Chancellor at 9:00.
At 9:00 Chancellor Mathews, Dr. Ken Craycraft and Dr. charlotte Sullivan joined the TSUS senators for a meeting which lasted about two hours. In his introductory comments, the Chancellor commended the Lamar campuses , and especially Dr. Simmons and faculty, for their handling of the Rita crisis. Other items of discussion were:
Construction on campuses
Organizational changes
Enrollment is 70,000
Ethics hotline
Texas legislature—textbooks, 120 hours, HB1
Closing the Gap—17,000 more professors are needed
Course fees are being replaced with designated tuition

Business model calls for accountability and transparency
Friday Afternoon: TCFS, TACT, and AAUP met together until 4:00 pm. The topics were:
2007 Texas legislature update by Chuck Hempstead, TACT executive director schedule faculty salaries to match the average of the other top ten most populous states repeal last session’s legislation regarding the 120 semester credit hour limitation add a faculty member to university system boards of regents support the sunset review of the teacher retirement system, including the initiative of a cash infusion to the retirement trust and a scheduled benefits increase support increasing the ORP employer contribution from 6 percent to 8.5 percent and quality criteria for approved products and companies

TRS update by a TRS representative
Three presentations related to attacks on academic freedom. Topics included
Ward Churchill case
Censorship since 9/11
Student protests and weblogs
Issues related to the religious right and intelligent design
Update on the Coordinating Board activities and initiatives by Catherine Parsoneault. Discussion of HB1 and fraudulent/substandard degrees
Friday 4:00-6:00 pm. TCFS met for roundup reports and discussion.
Friday evening. Banquet with speaker Dr. Gary Peer, Provost and VPAA, Tarleton State University.
Saturday morning. Regional meeting topics included
Big brother
Background checks
Computer security
Ethics hotline
TCFS Business Meeting
There was a minor bylaws change related to election of officers.
A resolution was passed to honor Sterling Smith
There was discussion about affirming the new faculty senate at Texas A & M Kingsville. This was tabled until February 07.
HB1
There was discussion of SACS about faculty involvement, assessment, and learning outcomes.

4. Committee Reports

Academic Issues: Jeremy Shelton
The committee met to discuss new summer schedules. A resolution will be presented in “New Business.”
There is a typo in the resolution- it should be “Summer III” not “Summer II” in the resolution.

Faculty Issues: Dianna Rivers
Lula Henry met with Assistant Chief Blaisdell to discuss parking.
Graduate students do not have reserved parking.
All officers can write tickets, but there are also specific ticket writers.
Fines are added to the student bills.
Two no-permit citations will be excused during the school year and recorded at the Parking Office for those who have purchased a valid permit. (information was taken form Parking and Traffic Regulations 2006-2007)

Development and research—John Gossage
The committee has met twice since last meeting.
The committee has been receiving reports on completed leaves.

Distinguished Faculty Lecture—Steve Zani
The Distinguished Faculty Lecture with Chris Bridges was wonderful. The only problem was horrific weather.
The committee will meet next week to discuss/review the event.
Connie Ruiz has stepped down as chair of the communications subcommittee, if anyone knows a dept chair who is willing, please let the committee know.

Budget and Compensation—Ann Matlock
The Budget and Compensation Committee met on October 11, 2006 to discuss the following:
The committee discussed the resolution on the use of merit funds for equity or other rewards to selected faculty members by deans and chairs. We put a resolution on the matter into final form and will present it to the Senate today.
The committee has surveyed the entire faculty on how they are being informed about their merit evaluations, merit raises and equity raises. The surveys were sent out to all full time tenured and tenure track faculty. The committee thanks all faculty senators who encouraged their peers to fill out and return surveys. There are surveys available today for any senators who have not filled one out. We are trying to get information from all departments and appreciate your help with the project. At this time, surveys are still being received and over one third of the faculty has responded.
The committee will meet again next Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in Galloway 214. We will also meet very briefly after this senate meeting.

5. SGA President Ron Turner’s Presentation
The yearbook is coming back. Faculty is encouraged to participate. Every dept has a liaison that will set up department photos. We are also urging faculty to tell students to get their pictures taken.
SGA wants to thank the senate for having an ex-officio member from SGA.
SGA needs a faculty advisor. Please let them know if you are interested.
He has met with the board of regents about diversity on campus and would like to know our ideas about that.
He can be reached at rturner@my.lamar.edu ext 8891

6. Old Business
None

7. New Business
Academic Issues resolution:
There is a typo in the 3rd paragraph. It should be summer 3.
The second line should read “faculty members who.”
The resolution passes with changes.

Faculty Issues resolution
Smaller departments may want an outside person while larger departments may want an inside person for their extra member of the chair review committee.
This resolution allows the department to decide if there will be two or one outside people involved.
The outside person will tally scores from inside evaluations.
The committee discussion decided that the outside person and the dean’s appointee should summarize the comments that the faculty have made. Others felt that many faculty members spend a lot of time working on comments and would not appreciate the summary.

Budget and Compensation Committee resolution on merit raises:
This is the same resolution presented last time with only one change suggested by committee in the whereas section.
Resolution passes.

Report of research leave requests by John Gossage.
3 were received and judged meritorious.
Ann Matlock moved to approve the requests.
The changes of funding from last year have had an impact on the number submitted.

8. Open Discussion
Dr Doblin has explained to the deans that there will be changes to the chair review process and the deans seemed very favorable.

9. The November 1 Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:36.