Faculty Senate   
October 3, 2007  
  
Attending: Arts and Sciences: Kenneth Dorris, Mike Matthis, Steven Zani, Mary Kelley, Kyehong Kang, Sheila Smith, Rose Harding, David Castle, Jeremy Shelton, Ray Robertson, Dianna Rivers, Terri Davis, Nancy Blume, Don Owen, Randall Terry, Hikyoo Koh, George Irwin, Chris Bridges, Kenneth Rivers Business: Alicen Flosi, George Kenyon, Celia Varick Education and Human Development: Jane Irons, Fara Goulas, Kim Wallet-Chalambaga, Lula Henry, Barbara Hernandez Engineering: John Gossage, Mien Jao, Malur Srinivasan Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski, Zanthia Smith, Randall Wheatley, Kurt Dyrhaug, Sumalai Maroonroge Library: Sarah Tusa, Jon Tritsch Developmental Studies: Umporn Tosirisuk Lamar State College Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel  
  
Absent: Arts and Sciences: Lloyd Daigrepont, MaryE Wilkinson, Emma Hawkins, Chung-Lhih Li Business: Soumava Bandyopadhyay, Jai Youn Choi Education and Human Development: Elvis Arterbury, Joel Barton Engineering: Selahattin Sayil, Brian Craig, Che-Jen “Jerry” Lin, Paul Corder Fine Arts and Communication: Monica Harn  
  
Call to Order: 3:04 p.m.  
  
Presentation by President Jimmy Simmons:  
o Years ago I told the faculty that football has been historically on the agenda. All external groups ask about it when visiting with them. Every time we get close, there is an obstacle: Rita, economic downturn, etc. But here are some things that we need to pursue if we are going to bring it back.  
o You cannot use state funds for football. It must be self-sustaining.   
o When it was done away with, we lost a 350 piece marching band, women’s sports, etc. Within two years we lost 2000 students, approximately several million dollars of income.  
o Our peer institutions have football as a means of enrollment management. It is not about winning or losing. Many nearby institutions that either did not have it or cut it are reinstating it.  
o We have a lack of stability in enrollment currently. Cardinal Village makes a big difference but we need more.  
o The state has approved an athletic fee for LU. If our students vote for this fee, it will be between 50-80 dollars per semester. That would give us the ability to secure a bond to renovate the stadium.  
o There would also need to be a minimum 5 million dollars in gifts.  
o There would need to be a minimum number of tickets sold.  
o Our stadium is the finest facility in the area at a school of our size. We did have 18000 people at football games.  
o The first concern is if the students can afford an increase. We are still more affordable than most of our competition.  
o We have fixed the lack of balance between students coming here from Louisiana and going to Louisiana from Texas.  
o The reinstatement of football will bring in 500 students. You also have a $100,000 funding increase.  
o We lost students when we tightened standards (300). That was fine. Then Rita hit and we lost 1200. We need to stabilize enrollment.  
o Once we have stabilized numbers, then we can further tighten standards.  
o We have not made the decision to bring football back, but from my perspective it has more positives than negatives.  
o There are many people who have to get on board before the decision is made and the announcement is presented.  
o Q&A  
• Will you drop men’s tennis to accommodate the increased male athletes? That would be an absolute last resort. We think we can adequately meet Title IX by adding a women’s swim team. Title IX may be undergoing changes because of the increase in female enrollment.  
• What sort of impact will there be in the academic performance of students overall? I don’t have any firm research or numbers. I believe it will enable us to tighten standards later. I do know that when I was band director, the students in the band were among the highest achieving in the university.  
• Does this mean that you don’t think football is why there was a $250,000 deficit in 1989? Yes, it did. But our basketball team makes more money than most of the other schools in our leagues. There are many factors that impact profitablility.  
• Has there been a feasibility study done? No, I don’t think you will find a feasibility study that will claim we will make money. There are too many factors, but we know we will have at least 100 football players added. Some students think if a school doesn’t have football, it isn’t a “real” school.  
• What pool of money will coaches’ salaries, etc. come from? Student fees, dorm income, food service, worst case scenario from designated tuition fees. It will not come from faculty salaries. This should increase faculty salaries in the long run.  
• What are the negatives we aren’t hearing? Our state legislators don’t want us to add to the burdens on our students. They keep decreasing our funding but do not want us to raise costs to students. If the legislators don’t want it, that would be a bad misstep to present it to them. There will be a lot of cost involved in bringing it back.  
• I think this could be one of the most heralded moves in the past twenty years at Lamar.  
• What about community leaders? How do they feel? There is a lot of community support. The first question the new regent asked was when is it coming back. Several city council members were football players.  
• What sort of impact will this have on the capital campaign? We did not want to start the campaign with football on the table but we are at a point now where we believe we will exceed our goals and there are a fair number of donors who will only contribute if we bring football back.  
• Can we put the student fees into a fund to help alleviate the burden to the students in perpetuity? That is what we are doing with the rec center. It is not a $50 per semester rec center, but Walter Umphrey’s donation allows us to charge that fee. We would set up something similar.  
• If it was announced next year, how long would it be until kick off? If we hired a coach in spring, we could probably begin exhibition games in FY 2010, 2011 would be the first real year of competition.  
• How far along are we in the process? The first step is talking with faculty. The next step is to meet with the legislature, the board, then the students. And if it fails the student vote, then that is it.  
• FEMA is repairing the pressbox, so that is not necessarily an indication of a decision.  
  
Two corrections to the minutes from last meeting: Janiece Buck is not at LU any more, Jane Irons is taking her place. Barbara Hernandez was here.  
  
Motion to accept the minutes as amended is made by Dianna Rivers, seconded by Fara Goulas.  
  
President’s Report: Kurt Gilman  
  
o Associate Provost position: It was announced by Provost Doblin that this position would be in combination with faculty development. It is the feeling of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, and myself, that this may not be an appropriate combination. I will meet with Dr. Doblin soon to discuss this matter.  
  
  
o Proposed new process for doctoral programs review: This is ongoing and is a mandate of the state through THECB. I will report on the progress of our programs as this procedure unfolds.  
  
  
o Departmental IE plans: Mark Asteris will report on a survey concerning faculty academic computing needs at Lamar.  
  
  
o Strategic Plan implementation: This draft document, in conjunction with, but not contingent upon, our SACS evaluation, will be available for review on the my.lamar website.  
  
  
o Core Curriculum assessment: I will report more on this at our next Senate meeting. There have been some concerns raised by faculty over certain review processes.   
  
  
o Board of Regents meet at LU on Feb. 21-22.  
  
  
  
  
Academic Issues: Terri Davis  
o A brief perusal of the survey shows that faculty hates the on line evaluation system. Jeremy Shelton did a great deal of work analyzing the data.  
o We will be surveying students. There is a list of classes needed for accuracy. If you are willing to have your students surveyed, please let Terri know.  
o Ken Dorris has brought up the issue of prerequisites in chemistry not being enforced. Is this a common problem? Is this something the senate wants the committee to look at? The ability to issue overrides should rest with the department that teaches the class, not advising.   
  
Faculty Issues: Lula Henry  
o We are still looking at the handbook of hiring processes. It is a draft and we are reviewing what to discuss with Dr. Doblin.  
o We have sent out the request for nominees for the Piper Award and received 20 nominees. Please look out for the actual ballot.  
  
Budget and Compensation: Ann Matlock  
o The Budget and Compensation committee met on September 12, 2007. We discussed our goals and plans for this upcoming year. We have decided to work first on the analysis that we do every year of faculty salaries. I hope to have the spreadsheets and equity information that we need to do this job in time for our second meeting next Wednesday. We will be meeting next Wednesday, October 10, at 3:00 in conference room 204 in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building. As soon as we complete our study, we will share the results with you.  
o We are pleased to inform the Faculty Senate that the Lamar budget is now up on the internet and available for faculty. To look at it, go to MyLamar and use your password to enter. Then click on Faculty Services, the Web for Faculty, and then you can select the Budget. If you wish to see salaries only, in alphabetical order, they are also available at the same location.  
  
  
Development and Research: John Gossage  
o The committee met three weeks ago to discuss a memo about using outside grants to apply against salaries. The committee approved the memo.  
o When we met with the Provost and President, it was mentioned that there were not many leave requests so the deadline has been pushed back a month. The new deadline is in November. We will need to meet next week to discuss the details of this.  
  
Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Steve Zani  
o The lecture is next month, November 12th. It is an account of the 19th and 20th century partnership between the US and Great Britain.  
o Publicity will be starting soon.  
o If you have a Monday night class near the theater, be aware that parking will be impacted.  
  
Staff Appreciation Day: Mark Asteris  
o We have worked out a date, March 28th.  
o We do have an account for Staff Appreciation Day.   
o Once we reach a certain amount of money, the Foundation will start investing for the scholarship fund.  
  
o You do not want academic computing reporting to IT. You want it to report to the academic side. That way you have academics in charge of academics.   
o We are surveying the faculty about this issue. One of the main peeves is that there is not a single point of contact for academic computing when there is a problem. Please complete this survey. It is your opportunity to say what you want and need in the classroom and on your desktop.  
  
Old Business:  
o The administration feels they have to abide by the Coordinating Board policy regarding required amount of contact hours. We will check on whether the final exam period is mandatory or not. We will be moving to the 45-30 sessions.  
  
New Business:  
o In May of 2004, an amendment was passed about election of senators. We have been electing according to that amendment, but the change has not been put in the handbook.   
o Where did the 12% come from? We will try to find out. Dave Castle will ask Bruce Drury.  
  
o We need to elect a new representative for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Dave Castle no longer wishes to serve. Sarah Tusa is nominated to represent the Senate. Alicen Flossi moves to elect by acclamation. The motion is seconded by Kim Chalambaga.  
  
Motion to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. is made by Terri Davis and seconded by George Kenyon.