LAMAR UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES FOR March 6, 2002
ATTENDANCE:
Arts and Sciences: Donna Bumpus, Kevin Dodson, Christine Bridges-Esser, Pamela Saur, Cindy Stinson, Bruce Drury, Dave Castle, Vernice Monroe, Max Loges, Dianna Rivers, Walter Sutton, Judy Mann, Sheila Smith, Mike Matthis, Stephanie Yearwood. Absent: Joe Pizzo.
Business: Larry Allen, Richard Jones, Celia Varick, K.C. Sen. Absent: Frank Cavaliere.
Education: Desmond Rice, George Strickland, Joel Barton, Kimberly Griffith, William Holmes.
Engineering: Hsing Wei Chu, Peggy Doerschuk, Alec Matheson, Valentin Andreev, John Gossage. Absent: David Read.
Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Gilman, Lane Roth.
Absent: Steve Hodges, Travis Almany, Larry Elliott, Ann Mattlock.
Library: Jon Tritsch, Sarah Tusa.
Port Arthur: Mavis Treibel.

CALL TO ORDER
Faculty Senate President Bruce Drury called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

MINUTES
The February 6, 2002 minutes were approved as written.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Bruce Drury reported the following:
1. The Salary Equity Committee will present its recommended model for a salary equity process on Wednesday, April 3, 2002. President Simmons will then have to decide if the model is satisfactory, and, if satisfactory, the timetable for implementation.
2. The University Long-Range Planning Committee met on Thursday, February 28. Dr. Simmons announced the following: the Psychology Building (PSY and POLS) renovation will begin this summer with completion scheduled for late spring 2003; the Chemistry Building bids were over budget and will have to be redone; the emergency phone system (28 sites) will be operational by late March; the first phase of the perimeter plan (fence) is near completion; the Units will come down this summer and will become parking; Gentry will be turned over to LIT this summer; and Lamar, the city, the county, and TEXDOT are working on plans for the renovation of MLK Parkway and Rolfe Christopher Blvd. Efforts are being made to add a dining hall to the Cardinal Village complex. If successful, the old Dining Hall becomes surplus. The University is also looking for ideas to clean up the visage from Cardinal Drive, i.e., remove the Transit Mix plant, relocate or screen the Entergy substation and the Entex substation.
3. Texas Council of Faculty Senates (March 1-2). The TSUS senators met with Chancellor Urbanovsky Friday morning. Funding for the next biennium does not look good, but that may help some TSUS schools that have surplus capacity. Urbanovsky wants to develop a video to promote LU, SRSU, ASU and others to students who are denied admission to UT and A&M because of capacity limits. He said that post-tenure review is not likely to be a legislative topic next year. In the TCFS sessions we heard speakers on the quality of public education in Texas, Closing the Gap, and the THECB development of field of study curricula.
4. Southwest Texas State University will not change its name to Texas State University. The Texas State University System Regents tabled the proposal.
5. March of Dimes. WalkAmerica will again be on the Lamar Campus. Encourage your colleagues and students to participate by raising/contributing money and by walking. The Lamar coordinator is Tina Wright (8127). Sarah Tusa and Bruce Drury are also on the committee. Volunteers are needed to distribute and collect pledge forms. Please note that B276 is the team number of the Faculty Senate. Please help this worthy cause.
6. Dr. Doblin has proposed and the Academic Council approved yesterday a policy that states that course grades may be entered only through SIS or the Web for Faculty and only by the instructor of record. The Academic Issues Committee will look into this, and the Senate will look at this in the April meeting.
7. AACSB reaffirmed accreditation for the College of Business.
8. Lamar University has created a Big Thicket Research Center that will allow us to seek grants and special item funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Issues: Christine Bridges-Esser reported that the committee took action on two issues this month. First, the committee sent a memo to EVPAA Doblin requesting information on student suspensions. Second, the committee formulated a resolution to recommend several changes in the Honors Program, with the major change being the upgrade of the Director from a half-time release position to a full-time administrative appointment. Dr. Bridges-Esser moved that the resolution be adopted by the Senate, seconded by Kevin Dodson. Kevin Dodson proposed an amendment, seconded by Lane Roth, to add the Honors Council proposal that there also be an assistant director with one course release time. Following discussion, the proposed amendment failed by a vote of 11-16. A motion was made by Valentin Andreev, seconded by Lane Roth, to amend the proposed resolution to provide for an internal search rather than a national search. The motion passed. Joel Barton then moved to amend the proposed resolution by deleting the details relating to compensation, duties and budget for the Program. Sheila Smith seconded the amendment, and it passed. The revised resolution (see Appendix A) was then approved by voice vote.

Faculty Issues: Bill Holmes reported that the committee reviewed a generic job description for department chairs and is collecting information on evaluation of instructors and lecturers. The committee also reached a decision on the question of parking fees for adjunct instructors. On behalf of the committee, Bill Holmes moved that the Senate recommend to the University that all adjunct instructors that are teaching only one course have their parking fee waived. Walter Sutton seconded the motion. After discussion, motion passed. The Executive Committee also talked with Dr. Simmons about having someone available 24/7 to make sure that the academic computers are up and running. Dr. Simmons assured the committee that he would look into this. A 24/7 contract has been signed recently that will provide 24/7 assistance for Web based student courses. It will cost about $17 per student per semester. The committee is looking for less expensive alternatives. Dr. Barry Johnson is working on bookstore complaints. If you have complaints about bookstore service please notify Bill Holmes.

Budget and Compensation: Valentin Andreev had nothing to report.

Faculty Development and Research: Kurt Gilman reported that the committee considered ideas for revisions of development leave grants. The committee feels that there is a need to review the entire issue. Dr. Doblin will be meeting with the committee next week to discuss this issue. One possibility is to include an attachment to the present form that will allow funding by departments. The committee is unsure about the legal issues. The committee also feels that there needs to be more continuity and more firmly established and documented procedures on how awardees are selected each year. The committee will try to come up with something for the April meeting.

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Sarah Tusa and Cindy Stinson reported that Celia Varick and Ann Mattlock are Faculty Senate members on the committee. Thus far five nominees have turned in their materials. Materials must be submitted by April 5. The committee will meet on the 23rd to select the lecturer and will report its selection at the May meeting.

Staff Appreciation Day: Mark Asteris reported that a total of 500-550 people attended the Staff Appreciation Day luncheon. The Italian menu appeared to be popular, and several staff expressed their thanks. The total cost was about $5000, but the actual bill was only $3900. There was about $1400 in prizes, bringing total expenses to about $5300. We received $3400 in donations from faculty and executives. There is currently about $6000 in the Staff Appreciation Day account, before expenses are paid. Joe Kimble, Treasurer for TACT, suggested that the money left in the account be placed in a money market account in order to earn more interest, since checks are only drawn on the account infrequently. Alternatively, some of the money could be used to fund scholarships ($500 per semester). Mr. Asteris noted that fewer faculty members contributed this year than in the past, so the Senate should consider whether this program is to be continued. The Senate also needs to decide when it will be held.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Workshop on plagiarism - Stephanie Yearwood announced that she attended a workshop on plagiarism and will be conducting a faculty workshop on plagiarism and academic honesty issues on Thursday, April 4 at 4 PM in Maes Room 101.

2. Election Rules - Kevin Dodson presented a resolution for proposed rules for elections to university committees and moved that the Senate adopt these rules. The motion was seconded by Desmond Rice. After discussion, Sheila Smith, seconded by Dianna Rivers, moved to table the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Kevin Dodson presented a resolution, seconded by Christine Bridges-Esser, for proposed rules for Faculty Senate elections. Valentin suggested two friendly amendments: (1) that Section 1b be changed as follows: “…THREE YEARS of experience…” (new language in uppercase). (2) that Section 2 be amended to replace all occurrences of “Department Chair” with “Senior Senator from the College.”. The Senate voted to adopt the resolution as amended. Amended resolution is included in Appendix B. For the upcoming election of senators for the 2002-2004 term, a senior continuing senator from each college must work with the dean to solicit nominations and run the election. Those five senior senators will be contacted next week.

3. Posting of notices on campus. Kevin Dodson expressed concern about notices that have been recently posted on campus soliciting nude models. These notices bear the requisite stamp of approval from the Student Affairs Office. He feels that there should be guidelines for accepting materials for posting and that materials of this nature should not be posted without ensuring the legitimacy of the offer and safety of our students. Bruce Drury will talk to Dr. Barry Johnson and President Simmons about this matter, and Christine Bridges-Esser will advise the Student Senate.

APPENDIX A

Resolved:

Whereas the McMaster family has endowed a fund for Honors Scholarships and for general support of the Honors Program in the amount of 2.5 million dollars.

Whereas we have an obligation to utilize these funds to bring out the best in our academically talented students and to establish a core of academic excellence within the University community.

Whereas the Honors Program is an integral part of the Lamar University Educational experience.

Whereas the number of active participants in the Lamar University Honors Program has increased more than 75% over the past three years.

Whereas the average SAT is 1201

Whereas the number of students in the Honors Program living in University housing is 37

Whereas the administration of this program is more than can be effectively managed by any faculty member with the current release time.

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends the initiation of an internal search to fill the position of Honors Program Director. This position should be a full-time administrative appointment with the responsibility to teach one class each semester, after the first term in the position.

APPENDIX B

Proposed Rules for Faculty Senate Elections

1. All Departmental and At-large Faculty Senators shall be elected by the faculty members of their respective departments and colleges.
a. All full-time faculty members with the rank of instructor or higher and one year of faculty experience at Lamar shall be eligible to vote in Faculty Senate elections.
b. All full-time faculty members with the rank of instructor or higher and three years of faculty experience at Lamar shall be eligible to serve as a Faculty Senator.

2. Departmental Senators. A senior senator from the college shall be responsible for conducting elections of Departmental Senators in their respective departments. Said elections shall be conducted according to the following guidelines.
a. Senior senators shall solicit nominations for faculty representatives from the faculty of their Departments and then contact each nominee in order to obtain acceptance of his/her nominations.
b. Elections shall be by majority of those votes cast, with one exception as noted below. If no nominee gains a majority, the senior senator shall hold a run-off election between the two nominees who received the most votes. In case of a tie yielding more than two candidates, the run-off election will consist of those nominees involved in the tie and shall be decided by a plurality of votes.
c. Elections of Departmental Senators shall be completed by May 1st.

3. At-Large Senators. The President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Faculty Senate shall appoint a continuing Senator from each College to conduct elections in his/her College. Said elections shall be conducted according to the following guidelines, and the appointed Senator is encouraged to work with his/her Dean to facilitate these elections.
a. The appointed Senators shall solicit nominations for faculty representatives from the faculty of their colleges and then contact each nominee in order to obtain acceptance of his/her nomination.
b. Elections shall be by majority of those votes cast, with one exception as noted below. If no nominee gains a majority, the appointed Senator shall hold a run-off election between the two nominees who received the most votes. In case of a tie yielding more than two candidates, the run-off election will consist of those nominees involved in the tie and shall be decided by a plurality of votes.
c. Elections of At-Large Senators shall be completed by May 1st.

The 2001-02 Senate was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

If you have any concerns that you want the Senate to discuss, please contact your Senator or the Senate Secretary: israel@ sal.lamar.edu.