LAMAR UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES FOR APRIL 2, 2003

ATTENDANCE

Arts and Sciences: Christine Bridges-Esser, George Irwin, Donna Bumpus,
Bruce Drury, Dave Castle, Vernice Monroe, Max Loges, Walter Sutton, Judy Mann, Sheila Smith, Mike Mathis, Paul Nicoletto. Absent: Terri Davis, Jim Jordan, Dianna Rivers, Stephanie Yearwood
Business: Larry Allen, Carl Montano, Celia Varick, K. C. Sen , Frank Cavaliere
Education: George Strickland, Joel Barton, Bill Holmes. Absent: Fara Goulas, Kiu Griffith
Engineering: Peggy Doerschuk, Mien Jao, David Read, Valenteen Andreev,Hsing Wei Chu, John Gossage
Fine Arts an Communication: Kurt Gilman, Prince Thomas, Zanthia Smith, Travis Almany, Larry Elliott, Ann Matlock
Library: Jon Tritsch, Sara Tusa
Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble
Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 5 meeting were approved as distributed.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT SIMMONS

President Simmons reported that there are two versions in the legislature concerning state budget cuts-one from the House and one from the Senate. The House version proposes a 12.5% cut in university spending from two years ago. With our projected increase in tuition, Lamar would break about even under this proposal. The Senate version is much kinder, cutting only 10%, and with Lamar’s added growth of 16%, we would end up ahead of two years ago. Both proposed bills will now go to a conference committee. A recent newspaper article reported that the legislature is going to put more money into education.

Lamar will be increasing fees, since we are $10.00 below the maximum allowable. This increase will take place over the next five years. Lamar currently ranks number five in dollar amount collected.

President Simmons was presented with a Faculty Senate Resolution of appreciation for his role in the dramatic achievements and successes at Lamar during the past three years of his tenure as chief executive.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. The state budget crisis has relaxed slightly. Travel is restored, and a few more positions may be restored.

2. THECB Intern Program---Feedback?

3. March of Dimes WALK AMERICA, Saturday, April 12, 8:30 AM. Food after walk.

4. Elections have been completed. Thanks to the senators that ran them.

A&S: Mike Mathis, Terri Davis; BUS: Larry Allen, K. C. Sen; EDU: Joel Barton, Bill Holmes; GR: David Read, Valentin Andreev; FAC: Ann Matlock, Kurt Gilman; LIB: Sarah Tusa, Jon Tritsch

5. The students at Southwest Texas persuaded a legislator to carry a name change proposal making that school The Texas State University at San Marcos. The TSUS regents and staff had talked about an almost consistent naming system of TSU-City (except for Sam Houston) but they were planning to broach it in 2005. They will try to table it for this session.

6. The Hallmarks of Excellence Advisory Committee has been appointed. I suggested Dr. Bridwell, Dr. R. Price, and Dr. Nordgren. Judy Mann will chair the committee, which will be under the general supervision of Dr. John Gardner.

7. Staff Appreciation Day. There has been a complaint concerning the handling of money that is collected for SAD, specifically concerning the Faculty Senate Resolution that provides additional scholarship funding for the Honors Program.

8. There is a legislative attempt to take discretionary decisions concerning tuition away from schools and regents.

9. Also, enrollment projections look good for Fall ’04. Cardinal III is probably on for Fall ’04 as well, and ½ of Brooks/Shivers will be remodeled to house students waiting to move into Cardinal III.

COMMITTEE REPORTS ON PROPOSED AGENDA
Academic Issues: Chris Bridges. (No report-out-of-town)

Faculty Issues: Bill Holmes. Concerning the evaluation procedures, feedback is now in progress for Deans Westerfield, Hopper, and Schultz. None has yet been provided for recent chair evaluations.

Budget and Compensation: Valentin Andreev. There are problems with the university calendar. Summer I contains too many days, and this will be adjusted appropriately. Summer II will start and end a day later. It has been proposed that classes not be held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Kevin Smith will look into this, but notes that by state law, there can be only so many holiday days. Dr. Simmons is appointing a committee to study ways of saving operating costs within the university. The Senate Executive Committee has requested, from Dr. Simmons, access to the university budget.

Development and Research: Judy Mann. The committee has sent questionnaires, via e-mail, to faculty senate presidents of other universities, requesting information concerning their Developmental Leave procedures. The committee will host a workshop in September, 2003, featuring advice from past recipients of DL Awards on effective preparation of application packets.

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Dianna Rivers. ( no report-out-of-town)

Staff Appreciation: Mark Asteris. (See President’s Report, No. 7.)

OLD BUSINESS

a. Elections. Collecting information on what went right/wrong.

b. TCFS Resolution on Administrators’ salaries. Resolution passed with friendly amendments. (See Appendix I)

c. Engineering Dean. This will be discussed in May after the evaluation process is completed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Recess to select members of nominating committee.

b. Election of Senate Reps to University Committees.

The following were elected by acclamation:

Academic IT: Carl Mantano Term TBA
Continuing Ed.: Celia Varick 2004
Fisher Lecture Series: Valen Andreev 2004
University IT Slot is for the Senate President
c. Custody and Privacy Rights for Faculty Computers. Resolution passed with friendly amendments. (See Appendix II)

OPEN COMMENTS

Mavis Triebel invited all senators to a reception/presentation on the Port Arthur campus at the Parker Building on April 22 at 7:00 PM. The will be a guest lecturer at this event

Paul Nicoletto expressed concern for piracy of accounts within his college, i.e., the administrative takeover of lab fees. Budget and Compensation will look into this concern.

ADJOURN

The Lamar University Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:27 PM

APPENDIX I

TEXAS COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES
A RESOLUTION

Whereas the primary mission of the state colleges and universities of Texas is education and instruction;

Whereas the core values and goals of the state colleges and universities of Texas reflect and support this mission;

Whereas the state colleges and universities of Texas must preserve and protect their ability to deliver quality instruction to a record number of students;

Whereas recent and pending budget restraints require state colleges and universities of Texas to do more with less (i.e., deliver more instruction to more students with smaller budgets);

Whereas all members of the Texas higher education community must bear the burden of ensuring that we weather the budget crisis without sacrificing quality;

Whereas the faculty in the state of Texas are willing to assist in devising ways to determine how to do more with less;

Therefore be it resolved that the Texas Council of Faculty Senators, an organization representing the leaders of the faculty senates in the state of Texas, supports the efforts of faculty to participate in this process and believes that the burden of doing more with less must not be interpreted to mean the faculty should be paid less and/or that the faculty should assume a greater overall workload. While the Texas Council of Faculty Senates believes that colleges and universities should be free to make adjustments as needed to meet their budget restraints, these adjustments must be made within constraints of fair pay for a reasonable workload. Colleges and universities must recognize that teaching load is only a subset of workload. Any adjustment in teaching load therefore must mandate a corresponding adjustment in service, research, and other work activities. Furthermore, in the spirit of shared sacrifices, we ask all Texas college and university administrators to shoulder a portion of this burden. Since administrators prosper disproportionately more than faculty during good times, they should make correspondingly greater sacrifices than faculty during hard times. In each institution, administrators should sacrifice at least as much as faculty are asked to sacrifice.

Moved by Peggy Doerschuk, seconded by Carl Mantano. Motion passed.

APPENDIX II

Computer Privacy Resolution

Whereas the desktop computers and workstations assigned to individual faculty members are the personal property of neither Lamar University and its staff nor the faculty members, but rather are the property of the citizens of the state of Texas, and

Whereas those computers have been explicitly assigned to the faculty members as an indispensable aid to the accomplishment of their professional duties, and

Whereas unrestricted access to those computers and the data and software they contain, without due process, by University staff members provides a serious infringement of the intellectual property rights of the faculty members, and

Whereas the data files on those computers may contain extremely important research materials, information pertaining to students, and, more importantly, may contain privileged and private personnel information regarding other faculty members under evaluation by committees on which these faculty members serve;

Therefore be it resolved that University officials and staff members be restricted from accessing those computers, removing or altering hardware, software, or files without following well defined and rigidly enforced procedures that:

1) guarantee the security of faculty members’ intellectual property rights,

2) guarantee the ability of faculty members to access needed internet and other files,

3) respect the privileged and private nature of personnel-related and other data.

Moved by David Read, seconded by Joel Barton. Passed unanimously.