LAMAR UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES FOR April 7, 2004

ATTENDANCE

Arts and Sciences: Rick Altemose, Christine-Bridges Esser, Donna Bumpus, Dennis Miller, Dave Castle, Terri Davis, Paul Griffith, Martha Rinker, Dianna Rivers, Lee Thompson, Iva Hall, George Irwin, Paul Nicoletto, Emma Hawkins, Mike Mathis, Steve Zani; Absent: Roger Cooper, Sheila Smith
Business: Larry Allen, Jai Young Choi, Carl Montano, Larry Spradley; Absent: Alicen Flosi, Celia Varick
Education: Kimberly Chalambaga, Fara Goulas, Lula Henry, Bill Holmes, George McLaughlin, Bernadette Moore, George Strickland;
Engineering: Valentin Andreev, Hsing Wei Chu, Peggy Doerschuk, Bernard Maxum, Mien Yao, David Read; Absent: John Gossage, Quoc Nam Tran
Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Sumalai Maroonroge, Zanthia Smith, Prince Thomas; Absent: Kim Ellis, Nicki Michaelski
Library: Rick Dyson, Jon Tritsch
Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble

CALL TO ORDER

Faculty Senate President Peggy Doerschuk called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Presentation by Daniel Bartlett on Foundations of Excellence mentoring program:
The Foundations of Excellence in the First-Year Experience program is developing many initiatives to enhance the first year of college and to increase Lamar's student retention rates. One important program is faculty/student mentorship. Incoming freshmen will be offered the opportunity to pair with a faculty/staff mentor who can help to create nurturing and personalized university experiences for new students, thus easing the transition from high school to college and assisting in the enrichment, retention, and graduation of college students. Mentor workloads are low and flexible, but they make a significant difference for students. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering as a mentor, please contact Daniel Bartlett at extension 8115 or dcbartlett@my.lamar.edu .

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 3, 2004 Faculty Senate Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. Status of resolutions. Senate resolutions on equity, merit pay and midterm elections were given to President Simmons and EVPAA Doblin last week. They are in agreement with the resolutions. Our proposed change to the Human Resources nondiscrimination policy has been approved and is now in effect.
2. Distance Education. A faculty-driven advisory committee on distance education issues is to be appointed by Vice President Doblin.
3. Status of Education Dean search - Four candidates have completed interviews. The search committee is meeting this week and should be making its recommendation soon.
4. Evaluations of Deans. During the fall, Deans Brenda Nichols (A&S) and Jerry Bradley (Graduate Studies) will be evaluated. Procedures are set forth in Appendix M of the Faculty Senate Handbook. I have appointed Mike Matthis from A&S and Bill Holmes from Graduate Studies to work with Kevin Smith in organizing the Administrator Review Committees.
5. FTE calculation for adjuncts. The majority of those senators responding recommended that one three-hour course be counted as 0.20 for adjuncts. This was likewise the majority vote in Academic Council.
6. Faculty Needs. I have appointed a Faculty Senate ad hoc committee to identify campus-wide faculty development needs for the Campus Survey of Needs fundraising planning. Members are Valentin Andreev, George Strickland, George McLaughlin, Christine Bridges-Esser and Ann Matlock. Please give your input to that committee.
7. Scholarships. There will be no caps on $1000 scholarships for graduate students for the fall. Scholarships must be competitive and can't be based on just one score.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Issues: Terri Davis. Terri distributed the results of the Faculty Survey on Faculty Teaching Loads, Class Sizes, and Enrollment Increases, and briefly discussed the findings. A written summary of these findings can be found in Appendix A.

Faculty Issues: Hsing Wei Chu. No report. The committee will be meeting within a week.

Budget and Compensation: No report. This committee will meet on Wednesday, April 14.

Development and Research: George Strickland. A sub committee met with Dr. Doblin to discuss a draft on financial incentives for research. George will have more to report on this after the entire committee meets.

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Dianna Rivers. At their meeting on Wednesday, April 14, the committee will be evaluating completed applications for the award, and selecting a winner to lecture in October, 2004.

Staff Appreciation Day: Mark Asteris. Mark reported on the balance of the account following the recent Staff Appreciation Day. He also provided information concerning the number of donors and examples of average donations. There is about $1500 left in the account to be used according to guidelines recently established by the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

Senator Mike Mathis requested that the issue of adjunct pay and status be revisited by the Senate. He made two motions, one concerning reopening discussion of .20 vs. .25 for adjuncts, which had been investigated thoroughly previously by the Senate. This motion to reopen discussion was not seconded. Another motion concerned the potential right of adjuncts to vote in Senate elections and to be represented on the Senate. This proposal would require an amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws and so cannot be voted upon until the next Full Senate meeting on May 5, 2004. Mike Mathis also asked that the Senate consider the issue of adjuncts teaching two courses in one combined class. President Peggy Doerschuk referred this issue to the Budget and Compensation Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

The Senate approved paying for a tent for the annual March of Dimes Walk-a-thon.

The Senate recessed to select members from each college for the nominating committee. Those selected for the nominating committee are:
Fine Arts and Communication: Ann Matlock; Education: George Strickland; Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble; Library: John Tritsch; Engineering: David Read; Arts and Sciences: Mike Mathis; Business: Larry Allen.

The Senate elected representatives for University committees as follows:
Academic IT: Carl Montano; Continuing Education: Sheila Smith; Curriculum Council: Tabled by vote of Senate; Judge Joe Fisher Lecture Series: Valentin Andreev; University IT: Tabled by vote of the Senate

Valentin Andreev made a motion to amend the Summer Schedule for 2004. After a second by Chris Bridges, the motion passed. (See Appendix B)

Faculty Senate President Peggy Doerschuk and the Executive Committee presented a proposal for modification of the Senate Bylaws concerning elections. This proposal will be voted on at the May 5, 2004 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Peggy announced that it is now official that Math will be moving to the College of Arts and Sciences.

OPEN DISCUSSION/COMMENTS

Jon Tritsch asked that any faculty with published books submit this information to the Library staff so their work(s) may be added to the collection.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Senate Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Appendix A
Written Summary of Findings, Faculty Survey on Faculty Teaching Loads, Class Sizes, and Enrollment Increases:
All Lamar-Beaumont faculty members were sent surveys. A response rate of 99 is high for informal faculty surveys and indicates that faculty are concerned about faculty teaching loads, class sizes, and enrollment increases.
A comparison between the responses given to survey Qs 3 and 4 (particularly Nos. 2 and 3) indicates a belief among faculty that hiring of adjunct faculty to deal with enrollment increases is a good short-term solution for 2003-2004, but that the practice should be reduced in the 2004-2005 academic year.
Faculty generally believe that the faculty member should decide for him/herself if teaching overloads is advisable.
A majority of the faculty (44%) believe that our faculty/student ratio is one of our strengths and that the university should be careful about altering the current ratio. 33% of faculty believe that the university should encourage growth because it is one of our strengths. Only 14% of faculty believe the university should stop aggressively recruiting students until our faculty size catches up with the size of the student body.

Appendix B
Summer I starts June 1 (instead of May 26) and ends July 7 (instead of July 6). The semester lasts 26 days. Summer II starts July 8 (instead of July 7) and ends August 12 (instead of August 11). This leaves the afternoon on August 12 to grade the graduating seniors and a day and a half to grade two classes, which should be sufficient.