LAMAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
November 2, 2005

Senators Present: Arts & Sciences: Dave Castle, Steve Zani, Paul Nicoletto, Terri Davis, Christine Bridges, George Irwin, Rick Altemose, Valentin Andreev, Dale Daniel, Emma Hawkins, Mary Kelley, Jim Love, Mike Matthis, Dianna Rivers, Jeremy Shelton, Shelia Smith, Business: Kakoli Bandyopadhyay, Celia Varick, Jai Young Choi, Soumava Bandyopadhyay, Education: Andrea Karlin, Bernadette Moore, Fara Goulas, George Strickland, Kim Chalambaga, Bill Holmes, Engineering: Hsing-wei Chu, Brian Craig, John Gossage, Bernard Maxum, Paul Corder, Mien Jao, Fine Arts & Communication: Connie Barker, Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski , Jeff Wisor. Library: Jeff Lacy, Theresa Storey, Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble, Lamar College-Port Arthur: Mavis Trieble.

Senators Absent: Arts & Sciences: Sandra Brannan, Don Owen, Peggy Doerschuk. Fine Arts & Communication: O'Brien Stanley, Kurt Dyrhaug.

1. The Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:05 P.M.

2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from September 7, 2005. (There was no October meeting due to Hurricane Rita.)

3. Four Visitors were introduced.

a. Steve Ford reported on the “Student Mentoring Program.”
b. La Tlou and Brian Esquivel from the Barnes and Nobles University Bookstore facilitated discussion to resolve the difficulties faculty were having with getting proper textbooks available. After a seemingly open dialogue, the bookstore promised to be available and open to faculty communication.
c. Stephenie Yearwood updated the Faculty Senate on the SACS timetable.
d. Mark Asteris gave a demonstration of the new student faculty on-line system called “MyLAMAR.”

4. President’s Report
The Texas Council of Faculty Senates met in Austin, October 21-22, 2005. Dave Castle and I attended the meeting representing Lamar University. On Friday morning we met with the Texas State University System Council of Faculty Senates (CFS). That program consisted of a long visit with Ken Craycraft and Charlotte Sullivan who are assistants to Chancellor Matthews. It was an informative discussion, and it was interesting to hear their perspective on legislative issues and how things are going for TSUS and higher education in Texas.

The Friday afternoon program was as follows:

David Rabban, Chair, University of Texas Law School – He is the chief lawyer for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). He discussed the AAUP legal program and a few interesting cases.

Representative Fred Brown, Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the Higher Education Committee of the Texas House of Representatives – He stressed the importance of accountability.

Susan Brown, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Accountability – Key measures and closing the gap (goal now 630,000 by 2015).

Cynthia Ferrel, Program Director for Participation and Success – Developmental Education and important conference on November 15-16, 2005.

Catherine Parsoneault, Program Director for Academic Excellence and Research, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board – Excellence in undergraduate education (advisory committee to be formed).

Friday evening our banquet speaker was Dr. Bob McTeer, Chancellor, Texas A&M University System. He basically gave the administrative side of the story of the events in Kingsville and answered questions related to that issue. The chair of the External Review Committee for Shared Governance, Robert Strawser, also made comments and answered questions.

On Saturday morning we met to conduct the routine business of TCFS. One item of business was not routine. It was the adoption of a statement on the suspension of the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M University, Kingsville. I will read that statement to you, and it will be on file in the Faculty Senate office.

5. Committee Reports
• Academic Issues: Terri Davis
The committee would like feedback on proposed class schedules and thank the administration for addressing the academic issue of low performing students.
• Faculty Issues: Hsing Wei Chu
The committee is working with securing the Piper Nomination.
• Budget & Compensation: Ann Matlock
The Budget and Compensation Committee of the Faculty Senate met on September 14, 2005. We examined current information about faculty salaries and raises due to promotion, merit and tenure. We divided the information among the committee members so that we could do a more careful analysis of it. The results will be presented to the committee at our next meeting, and any concerns will be shared with the executive committee.

We discussed the information given to faculty members concerning their merit evaluations, and their merit, promotion, and equity raises. Since there seems to be a wide variation in the completeness of information given to faculty, the committee has decided to survey the Faculty Senate to obtain a more complete understanding of how the process is working. Accordingly, a copy of this survey is being distributed to all faculty senators, with the request that it be completed this week if possible, so that the committee can be informed of the results in time for their November meeting.

The committee also discussed the suggestion by some faculty members that they receive information about how much of their equity raise had been paid so far, and how much remains to be paid. It was decided that we would try to work with the administration to provide this information to faculty.

The next meeting of the committee will be on December 14, 2005.

• Development and Research: Rick Altemose
The committee met onOctober 26 where Prof. Maxum reported on the math requirement, and Prof. Bandyopadhyay reported on on-line courses that would help faculty with developing their statistical ability.

The Committee will get the Faculty Development Leave applications during the regularly scheduled meeting on November 9, will meet again on November 30 at 3 pm to evaluate them, and will report results to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Faculty Senate on December 7. Prof. Barker volunteered to place an announcement of the due date in Mirabeau.

• Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Fara Goulas
The Distinguished Faculty Lecture has been rescheduled for Monday, January 30 in the University Theater.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business – None

8. Open Discussion/Comments
A question about the procedure to have a substitute for faculty senators on leave was referred to the Faculty Issues Committee.

Dianna Rivers handed out a flyer on the Film Festival.

Dianna Rivers asked who picks the committee members for the Chair’s and Dean’s evaluation committees. It was indicated that there is a procedure in the Faculty Handbook.

Shelia Smith asked if there was to be future checks on the health/safety issues of Lamar’s building after the hurricane Rita incident.

9. A motion to adjourn was made by Vanletin Andreev and seconded by Terri Davis.