LAMAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
April 5, 2006

Senators Present: Arts & Sciences: Mary Kelly, Terri Davis, George Irwin, Jim Love, Paul Nicoletto, Christine Bridges, Shelia Smith, Emma Hawkins, Don Owen, Dave Castle, Steve Zani, Rick Altemose, Valentin Andreev, Mike Matthis, Dianna Rivers, Jeremy Shelton, Peggy Doerschuk; Business: Richard Drapeau, Kakoli Bandyopadhyay, Soumava Bandyopadhyay, Celia Varick, Jai Young Choi; Education: Fara Goulas, Mary Wilkerson, Bernadette Moore, George Strickland, Kim Chalambaga, Bill Holmes; Engineering: John Gossage, Hsing-wei Chu, Paul Corder, Mien Jao; Fine Arts & Communications: Kurt Dyrhaug, Connie Barker, Kurt Gilman, Kurt Dyrhaug, O’Brien Stanley, Prince Thomas, Nicki Michalski, Jeff Wisor; Library: Jeff Lacy, Theresa Storey; Developmental Studies: Joe Kemble; Lamar College-Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel.

Senators Absent: Arts & Sciences: Kenneth Doris, Dale Daniel, Sandra Brannan; Engineering: Bernard Maxum, Brian Craig; Fine Arts & Communication: Zanthia Smith.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Homes.

2. A motion was made by Mike Matthis and seconded by Dianna Rivers to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2006 Faculty Senate Meeting with the following changes: Joe Kemble’s and Mien Jao’s name should be added to and Hsing-wei Chu’s name should be deleted from the 2006-2007 faculty senate officers nominating committee. Connie Barker’s name should be shown as present for the March 1, 2006 faculty senate meeting. The motion carried.

3. President’s Report

1. Staff Appreciation Day postponed until fall semester.

2. As of this date, nine million dollars have been received by the University from FEMA.

3. The Faculty Senate has been asked to coordinate nominations for the U.S. Professors of the Year program. This item was referred to the Faculty Issues Committee.

4. The TSUS Board of Regents has elected to make available as of April 15, 2006, the TSUS Compliance and Ethics line. The hotline and its rationale are described more fully in the handout you have received.

5. We need to add a statement to election guidelines related to how department senators are to be elected. This was referred to the Faculty Issues Committee.

4. Committee Reports

• Academic Issues: Terri Davis

The committee is examining changes in the summer schedule

• Faculty Issues: Hsing Wei Chu

The committee discussed two issues. First we were asked to decide how program directors should be evaluated. We felt that the department chair should develop an instrument that receives and evaluates input from those persons to whom the director supervises. The second item that we discussed was to determine who should be placed in nomination for the U.S. Professors of the year Program. We will be offering a motion during New Business.

• Budget & Compensation: Kurt Gilman

The Budget and Compensation Committee considered three different retirement proposals. Out of those proposals, we are recommending two to the full Senate. This recommendation has been circulated in advance of this meeting, and will be discussed under “New Business.”

• Development and Research: Rick Altemose

The committee discussed how faculty could get statistical help from university resources. We also will be fixing the “glitches” in the new faculty development leave procedures.

• Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Fara Goulas

We have received proposals and will be meeting next Wednesday to make a selection which will be announced in the May Faculty Senate meeting.

• 2006-2007 Officer Nominating Committee:

The following persons have been nominated:
President: Dianna Rivers and Kurt Gilman
Vice-President: Hsing-wei Chu
Secretary: Nicki Michalski and Anna Harding

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

Recommendation from Budget and Compensation Committee related to retirement plans

The Budget and Compensation Committee recommends to the Senate that faculty have the option to choose from the following Retirement Plans:

Plan 1: To retire in the Fall of 2007.
The faculty is assigned a negotiable project during 2006-07 academic year at half the salary for that academic year plus the full amount of that faculty remaining equity. Teaching retirement options are negotiable.

Plan 2: To retire in the Fall of 2008.
The faculty is regularly employed during 2006-07 academic year and receives the salary for that academic year plus half of the amount of that faculty remaining equity in 06-07. The faculty is assigned a project during 07-08 academic year at half the salary for that academic year plus the full amount of that faculty remaining equity.
Teaching retirement options are negotiable.

An additional recommendation from the B&C Committee is that the projects involved in the Retirement Plans be reasonable and meritorious as determined by the Provost.

Nominees for the U.S. Professors of the Year Program

Jean Andrews
Robert Culbertson
Fara Goulas

7. Open Discussion/Comments

• The May Mini ends May the 30th.
• Need a volunteer to serve on the Financial Aid Committee.
• Need the names on the Developmental Studies “run-off.”
• Need a university policy on cell phone usage. It was indicated previously that this has been discussed and determined that each faculty member should have a cell phone policy.
• A concern about evening faculty parking space availability was referred to the Faculty Issues Committee.
• It was reported that there may not be any equity compensation this year due to the damage done by Hurricane Rita. It was also reported that the new equity plan should not begin until the old one is paid off. Complaints should be based on the current equity plan.
• Students are encouraged to evaluate courses on-line.
• A motion to allow Carol Sullivan to address the May 2006 Faculty Senate Meeting for five minutes was made by Richard Drapeau and seconded by Steve Zani. The motion carried.

8. The meeting was adjourned.