LAMAR UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2006

Senators Present: Arts & Sciences: Emma Hawkins, Don Owen, Peggy Doerschuk, Dave Castle, Steve Zani, Rick Altemose, Valentin Andreev, Dale Daniel, Mary Kelly, Mike Matthis, Dianna Rivers, Jeremy Shelton; Business: Richard Drapeau, Kakoli Bandyopadhyay, Soumava Bandyopadhyay, Celia Varick, Jai Young Choi; Education: Andrea Karlin, Bernadette Moore, Fara Goulas, George Strickland, Kim Chalambaga, Bill Holmes; Engineering: Bernard Maxum, Hsing-wei Chu, John Gossage, Paul Corder, Mien Jao; Fine Arts & Communications: 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 Trieble.

Senators Absent: Arts & Sciences: Terri Davis, Shelia Smith, Jim Love, Paul Nicoletto, Christine Bridges, George Irwin, Sandra Brannan, Kenneth Doris; Fine Arts & Communication: Connie Barker; Engineering: Brian Craig.

1. President Bill Holmes called the Faculty Senate to Order at 3:05 p.m., February 1, 2006.

2. A motion was made by Dianna Rivers and seconded by Mike Matthis to approve the December 7, 2005 amended minutes.

3. President Bill Holmes presented the following resolution as a plaque to Dr. Jimmy Simmons, President of Lamar University:

WHEREAS the damage suffered by Lamar University as a result of Hurricane Rita was of such magnitude that it seriously threatened the ability of the University to complete the Fall 2005 semester; and,

WHEREAS President Jimmy Simmons and other members of the administration and staff responded swiftly and effectively to the crisis to ensure the completion of the semester, the physical integrity and rebuilding of the campus, and that faculty, staff, and work study students receive their regular pay without interruption during the evacuation; and,

WHEREAS President Simmons and other members of the administration have continued to address and monitor the rebuilding of the campus;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate highly commends President Simmons and the administration for its effective leadership and response to the damage caused to Lamar University as a result of Hurricane Rita.

4. President Bill Holmes made the following report:

1. Dr. John Schmitt, Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Alabama and a SACS consultant, will visit our campus February 20-21 to help us re-focus our efforts related to SACS. He will meet with faculty 3-4:30 p.m. Monday, February 20, John Gray Center auditorium and a repeat session 8:30-10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 21, John Gray Center Room A/B.

2. I will attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) meeting in Austin February 17-18, 2006.

3. The elections/appointments process has been initiated for next year. The election officials for this process are:

Arts & Sciences – Terri Davis
Business – Celia Varick
Education – Bill Holmes
Engineering – Hsing-wei Chu
Fine Arts & Communication – Nicki Michalski
Library – Jeff Lacy

4. As of the twelfth class day, the spring enrollment is down 464 students when compared to spring 2005. Cardinal Village is full, and about 40 students are housed in Brooks Hall.

5. The Executive Committee recommends that a faculty senator who serves on the Faculty Development and Research Committee not be eligible to apply for a Development Leave.

6. The Executive Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate not take any additional action related to the terminal contract review requested on December 7, 2005.

7. Dean and Chair evaluations should all be finished by late February or early March.

8. Jim Love has agreed to serve as the Faculty Senate representative on a Space Utilization committee which will be appointed by Dr. Simmons.

9. The Equity Committee will be a standing committee.

10. A Program Improvement Review (PIR) process will be piloted soon with four or five departments (SACS related).

5. Committee Reports
• Academic Issues: Nicki Michalski

The committee indicated that the mini session schedules were approved.

• Faculty Issues: Hsing-wei Chu

A subcommittee discussed a terminal contract and referred it back to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with no comment.

• Budget & Compensation: Kurt Gilman

The B & C Committee is focusing on two issues of concern to faculty:

1. Retirement Incentives
This might involve paying off equity early to those individuals who wish to engage in such a plan.

The administration has agreed to consider such a proposal.

2. Equity and Merit

The committee has been studying the ways in which equity and merit have been allocated, focusing on equality of shares and distribution among faculty.

We have proposed the adoption of a new plan, to be reviewed every three years. The plan would be adjusted in order not to create new problems.

We have also proposed the formation of a standing committee dealing with equity and merit, and the administration has agreed to this. We appear to have their support, especially if we ensure that it is a good plan containing reasonable recommendations

• Development and Research: Rick Altemose

Normally, faculty development leaves are budgeted for $30,000. For the last two years, the administration has doubled the budget. Even with the extra funds last year, two of the seven applications we deemed meritorious could not be funded. We cannot count on the extra funding for the coming year, so the number of applications we can fund may be cut in half.
The answer to the funding problem is encouraging full-year, half-salary applications. Not only can these be funded without the use of any funds from our budget, the Provost has agreed to place monies saved by half-salary leaves back into our budget. This would usually mean that for every half-salary leave funded, not only that leave but also an additional full-salary leave could be funded.
The Provost has also agreed to promote half-salary leaves by using a different standard of evaluation. "Full academic year development leaves will be considered as a group separately from the half-year and summer development leaves, and thus will have greater chance of approval. Indeed, support for all such leaves deemed meritorious by the Faculty Senate and approved by the Department Chair and Dean will be virtually automatic from the Provost."

• Distinguished Faculty Lecturer: Fara Goulas

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
2006 LAMAR UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE SERIES
Sponsored by Lamar University Faculty Senate
Deadline: Friday, February 24, 2006

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retired faculty and staff are invited to nominate outstanding Lamar University teacher/scholars for the Twentieth Lamar University Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series.

The award, which includes a $1,500 stipend, is certainly one of the highest honors granted to a Lamar University faculty member. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series began in 1987. During the fall of 2006, the honoree will present a lecture/presentation to the University community and community guests. The formal program will include:

1. A dinner for the honoree, his/her guests, the sponsor, and representatives from the University community
2. The lecture/presentation by the honoree
3. A reception after the lecture/presentation honoring the recipient

The lecture/presentation will be published and distributed to those attending the event. Copies of the lecture/presentation will also be sent out to each Texas university library and to other universities throughout the United States.

Each nominee shall be a full-time faculty member of Lamar University (having completed one year at Lamar and currently teaching at least nine hours) who clearly expresses the University ideal of searching for knowledge through critical inquiry in his or her own discipline and who supports and appreciates critical inquiry in the other disciplines of the University. Nominees may be from any areas of knowledge and expression.

Nominations must be submitted in writing to Fara M. Goulas by February 24, 2006. Anonymous nominations will not be accepted; the nominator must identify her/himself in the nominating letter. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture Award Committee will announce the 2006 recipient at the May meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Fara Goulas, Chair
Distinguished Faculty Lecture Award Committee
Phone: 409/880.2235; Fax: 409/880.8685
P.O. Box 10034
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6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

The Executive Committee made a motion that a faculty senator who serves on the Faculty Development and Research Committee not be eligible to apply for a Development Leave. Motion Carried.

8. Open Discussion/Comments

• Bill Holmes said that the resolution was printed by Des Rice.
• Staff Appreciation Day is being planned and a date will be set soon.
• Concern for parking enforcement will be discussed at the next meeting with the President and Provost.
• Dianne Rivers on behalf of her husband Kenneth expressed their appreciation for the support concerning the Distinguished Faculty Lecture.
• Dianne Rivers invited the Lamar family to attend the 9th French Film Festival at 7:00 p.m. to view a 2003 film, “Love Me If You Dare” at the Dishman auditorium.
• Rick Altemose reminded faculty of the on-line syllabus information for SACS.
• A reminder of the next Faculty Senate Meeting, March 1, 2006 in Landes Auditorium.

9. A motion to Adjourn was made by Andreev Valentin and seconded by Dianna Rivers. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
George A. Strickland