Faculty Senate Meeting
September 5, 2007
Call to order 3:04
Gray Library

Attending: Arts and Sciences: Chris Bridges, Kenneth Dorris, Mike Matthis, Lloyd Daigrepont, Steven Zani, Mary Kelley, Kyehong Kang, MaryE Wilkinson, Sheila Smith, Rose Harding, David Castle, Jeremy Shelton, Dianna Rivers, Emma Hawkins, Terri Davis, Nancy Blume, Randall Terry, Hikyoo Koh: Business: Soumava Bandyopadhyay, George Kenyon, Celia Varick: Education and Human Development: Fara Goulas, Kim Wallet-Chalambaga, Lula Henry, Jane Irons: Engineering: John Gossage, Mien Jao, Malur Srinivasan; Fine Arts and Communication: Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski, Randall Wheatley, Kurt Dyrhaug; Library: Sarah Tusa, Jon Tritsch Developmental Studies: Umporn Tosirisuk Lamar State College Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel

Absent: Arts and Sciences: Ray Robertson, George Irwin Business: Alicen Flossi, Jai Youn Choi; Education and Human Development: Elvis Arterbury, Janiece Buck, Joel Barton, Barbara Hernandez; Engineering: Selahattin Sayil, Brian Craig, Che-Jen “Jerry” Lin, Paul Corder; Fine Arts and Communication: Zanthia Smith, Monica Harn, Sumalai Maroonroge

Please let us know if you did not receive email for this meeting. There was a problem with the mailing list, and we need to fix it.

Move to accept minutes: Lula Henry, seconded Mike Matthis

President’s report:
♣ Dr TC Ho is a recipient of the Regent’s Award
♣ Bill Holmes was promoted to Associate Dean, makes statement:
♣ Thank you to those with whom I’ve served
♣ I still want to be a representative of the faculty. I will still be teaching. I will still be around if you need me.
♣ Keep communicating; that and transparency are so important. If we work with integrity, we can move forward together.
♣ We are blessed with a great administrative team right now. Lamar is in a great position.

♣ Goals for the senate for the year:
♣ Salary and equity. We’ve made strides, but they are still on our minds. The budget was level funded this year but the administration is still working toward these issues. On a similar note, I received the amended budget at the earliest point ever this year. It will be on the web for faculty soon. Mr Fergusson was on the phone with Michael Dobe the new IT head to implement the upload today.
♣ Faculty Development. Attended first meeting in May of the Texas Faculty Development network to address faculty development issues at Texas Universities. I was amazed at how well developed many of these programs are. Dr Doblin has been involved in discussions about coming up with a comparable program at Lamar. We are urging the development of an actual center for faculty development at lamar.
♣ Communication. We need to improve our communication with the faculty. We, senators, often discuss the issues with each other but many don’t report back to their constituents. The information is provided on the web, but we should make sure to directly communicate important issues with the faculty at large. The small number of resolutions passed last year are reflective of the strong communication with the administration. If we have an issue, we have, for the most part, been able to talk it through without passing resolutions.
♣ Mileage went up. It is now 48.5 cents. If you use the wrong number, it will be sent back.
♣ Online classes are, according to surveys, improving on-campus enrollment.
♣ IRS has decided to enforce the 9 month vs. 12 month rule. If you take your salary over 12 months, you will be taxed at a higher level for those three months. This is going to be started next year. Ann Matlock’s committee will be checking into this.
♣ There will now be background checks on all applicants applying for positions at Lamar.
♣ Course fees no longer exist, but there are some other types of fees that have been maintained. There has been a budget implementation to accommodate the change.
♣ There is a new program review provision being implemented. This is supposed to allow more flexibility with new programs.
♣ Turn-it-in.com is providing us with a trial period of two months.
♣ The endowed chair policies committee will have Jeremy Shelton as the senate rep.
♣ The Beck Fellowship committee will have Dave Castle as the senate rep. We need two more representatives. This will be a free ride plus 10,000 dollars during the summer for research. David Beck intends this to be the premier undergraduate fellowship at Lamar. There will be a 3.5 gpa requirement and financial need. Mr Beck has specified that it should be faculty who make this decision
♣ Changes to the F2.08 are proposed dealing with evaluations. Terri Davis is on the committee that will deal with this. It will also change the definition of service to the university.
♣ The faculty search manual has been under review.
♣ We are also going to be very careful to check references before interviews.
♣ There is a new academic suspension draft policy that requires faculty review.
♣ Within a year, the university catalog will be online. We are being asked for an opinion about how many printed copies should be available.
♣ If you are up for promotion and tenure, check the schedule. There have been tweaks to the schedule.
♣ Audra Gerlach is the new international recruiter and would like input from faculty about what our international interests are.
♣ Constitution Day is on the 18th.
♣ There will be a copyright law workshop in the Gray Auditorium 1-5 on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
♣ Because of branding seminars that occurred in the spring, the new Lamar motto is “Inquire, engage, achieve.”

3:40 break into committee caucuses

3:50 return to full session

Academic Issues—Terri Davis
♣ Jeremy Shelton has provided results from the surveys about online evaluations. 120 responses were sent in. Everyone seems to hate the online evaluations. Most of the faculty comments said “go back to paper.” That is not realistic, so the committee will be working on solutions for how to improve the system.

Faculty Issues—Lula Henry
♣ We did get information saying that it is up to departments to decide if they want an outside person to help them with hiring committees.

Budget and Compensation—Ann Matlock
♣ We hope to benefit from all of the new information provided.
♣ We are again hearing from faculty that they are unaware of how their raises are decided. We will get a copy from Dr Doblin of what he is circulating to the deans and present it for feedback. Surveys will be done if necessary.
♣ Ann is now the chair of the faculty equity committee, which is now a standing committee, and that group will be meeting soon.

Development and Research—John Gossage
♣ George Kenyon is vice chair
♣ We will be meeting next week with the goal of increasing the number of applicants for development leaves. We think the problem may be just in getting the word out.

Distinguished Faculty Lecture—Steve Zani
♣ The tentative date is November 3. We are still awaiting written confirmation from the theater.
♣ Lee Thompson will be the lecturer.
♣ We are currently involved in the nuts and bolts of organization.

Old Business—none

New Business
♣ There are two academic calendars being proposed. One that is the same format we use currently. This is the old SACS standard. The Coordinating Board would like a change, which eliminates “dead day” and cuts mini sessions to 9 days from 15. Most universities use the old SACS calendar.
o There is one objection based on the idea that the shorter sessions impose limitations upon what you can teach in a semester.
o It is also noted that 45 sessions are beneficial for students who struggle with the information
o Some members say they don’t care which is used.
o Others say that if we have to work more we should get paid more otherwise it is a pay cut.
o The second schedule will severely impact the mini sessions. We have fought to get a longer session. Some classes are suited to minis, but many are not.
o I am sure the faculty would like to hear the views of the students on losing their exam preparation day. We have our own views but are willing to support the students in their choice.

Open Discussion
♣ What happened to the idea of merging promotion and tenure? It was decided to keep them separate. It is the same information arranged differently, so why can’t the forms be the same? This has been brought before the President and Provost before but can be mentioned again.

Motion to Adjourn: by Terri Davis at 4:24 and seconded by John Gossage