

Faculty Senate Minutes
October 7, 2015

Attending: Arts and Sciences: Patricia Heintzelman, Cristian Bahrim, Tom Sowers, Kami Makki, Valentin Andreev, Ana Christensen, Stacey Knight, Judy Smith, T.J. Geiger, Jennifer Ravey, Adrienne Blackwell, Jane Liu, Mark Mengerink, J.P. Nelson, Chandru Chandrashekar, Ming Lou, Jennifer Daniel, James Armacost, Martha Rinker, Cheng-Hsien Lin, Ted Mahavier, Carol Hammonds **Business:** Ricardo Tovar-Silos, Vivek Natarajan, **Education:** Randy Davis, Ken Young, Diane Mason, Janice Kimmons, Vanessa Villate, Rick Carter, Dorothy Sisk, Cristina Rios **Engineering:** Paul Corder, John Gossage, Xinyu Liu, Jenny Zhou, Qin Qian **Fine Arts and Communication:** Xenia Fedorchenko, Zanthia Smith, Connie Howard, Nicki Michalski, Richard Gachot, Joel Grothe **Library:** Michael Saar, Sarah Tusa **College Readiness:** Melissa Riley **Lamar State College Port Arthur:** Mavis Triebel
Not Attending: Roger Cooper, George Kenyon, Karyn Neuhauser, Frank Badua, Wendell Bean

Call to Order: 3:34 p.m.

Guest speakers:

President Ken Evans:

- Our enrollment is up approximately .5%
- We are updating Cardinal Village.
- We are trying to attract businesses to the local area, but that requires increased foot traffic. That will not happen without increasing the residency of Cardinal Village and occupancy in nearby apartments.
- We make a significant contribution to the local economy, nearly \$700 million when combined with the input from students and such.
- The recent legislative season was good for Lamar.
 - Due to the constitution of our enrollment, we received the largest appropriation of any school in the TSUS system
 - We got 14.1 million dollars for HEAF which will help with our structural improvements
 - Our bond will go mostly to the science and technology building
 - Due to the efforts of Joe Deshotel, TAHL's funding structure has been fixed so the program should not function in the red
 - Senator Creighton, our local regents and Dade Phelan and Joe Deshotel were all very helpful in securing increased funding for Lamar.
 - Our TSUS membership has definitely shown its value this session through the additional support we received due to membership.
 - The new Port Authority Management program and the Water and Air Quality program were both funded.
- The visionary initiatives program is designed to get input from faculty and staff for exciting new ideas.
 - These programs need to be self-sustaining.
 - They may be pitched to the legislation for funding in future sessions, but that is not the only or even primary criteria.

- Campus carry passed during this session.
 - We have a task force in place to deal with implementation. Kevin Smith is chair of the group.
 - We are still early in the process.
 - Our team was in Austin last week for a meeting about the new law.
 - We will be holding open forums for students, faculty and staff to discuss the issue.
 - The task force will write up a policy and submit it to Dr. Evans for review and feedback. It will be sent to the State by a February deadline.
- Our new administration building is supposed to be done in July. Considering the usual delays in the construction process, it is more likely to actually be ready for Fall.
- We have broken ground for the new Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. It is already fueling creativity. Projects should be cross-disciplinary and a focus on undergraduate research is desired.
- The RFP has been issued for the Setzer Center. Construction will probably start in the next academic year.
- The new science and technology building will probably start next year. That will trigger the Hayes Biology refit and annex project.
- The FIG program is in place. Freshman interest groups have been shown to lead to increased retention and student success.

Dean Srinivas Palanki, College of Engineering

- Originally from New Delhi, the Dean did his graduate work at University of Michigan.
- The college of engineering has 5 departments, 13 degree programs, 58 full time faculty and 2000 students. There are also 5 endowed chairs, 2 endowed departments and 1 named building.
- He is excited about the changes underway at Lamar: the new strategic plan, administration changes.
- He is hoping to update how education is delivered through implementing new technology, using podcasts and such. It is important to remember that new ideas equal new challenges.
- He has taught in all formats: traditional, hybrid and online. Students want podcasts even if the class is being taught in the traditional format.
- The industry education interface is vital for engineering. Industry often describes a problem, then engineering comes up with a solution.
- Centers of creativity and ingenuity serve as sources of seed money. They generate funding which is then used for writing proposals for additional funding. This is part of commercializing faculty research.
- He plans to spend most of his time on development. He will be soliciting grants, proposals and gifting opportunities.
- The US is falling behind India and other parts of the world. We only have 4 out of 100 students going into STEM disciplines and 2 out of 100 go into engineering.
- He sees three areas of opportunity for change: collaborative research, developing innovative teaching portfolios and to develop and mature industry interaction.
- The electrical engineering degree is online, which means that 80-90% of the freshman and sophomore classes are online.

- The College of Engineering is sponsoring the Academic Lecture Series this semester, and the speaker is Jay Keasling, one of the foremost authorities on bio-engineering.

Dean Derina Holtzhausen, College of Fine Arts and Communication

- She is impressed with the faculty and staff of the college.
- She has begun the strategic planning process which demonstrates the collaborative energy in the college.
 - The first area of focus is to become thought leaders in our fields.
 - We need to teach to the future, not the past.
 - We will be solving problems that do not even exist yet.
 - People in the future will need group skills, communication skills, and empathy.
 - We want to be a cutting edge college in our disciplines.
 - The second area is student success.
 - We have many first generation students.
 - These students need support and help navigating the college experience.
 - We seek to provide opportunities for our students in funding, research and education.
 - The third area is as a guardian of democracy.
 - We must promote social justice.
 - We need to reach out and touch people in meaningful ways.
- The CoFAC has a severely neglected infrastructure.
 - The theater is dilapidated.
 - The art building is full of mold and water damage.
 - Deaf studies is in need of expanded lab space.
 - 40% of the pianos are 40 to 60 years old.
 - Therefore she will focus on funding for infrastructure improvements.
- Departments will be working on curriculum innovation.
- She plans to review and implement policies and procedures.
 - Promotion and tenure guidelines will be reviewed.
 - She would like to have new faculty teach less. This means tenured faculty will have to pick up the slack or increase the amount of faculty.

Approval of minutes: Vivek Natarajan made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Judy Smith seconded the motion, and it passed.

President's Report:

- We need to look into developing a process for external review. President Evans has stated that he would like to see this implemented for promotion to full professor, perhaps tenure as well.
- Regarding the F2.08 task force, we are most likely looking at developing a 2 prong approach. The goal is to develop a better distribution on the scores.
 - A peer review system will help inform the chairs in the evaluation process.
 - All departments will have to review their criteria. These criteria will vary depending on the discipline.
- Welcome to our new members, Vanessa Viatte and Randy Davis.
- There are many department chairs up for review this year. A list will be distributed via email.

- Our November meeting will be held in the Landes Auditorium.

Committee Reports:

Academic Issues: no report

Budget and Finance:

- Department chairs are not informing people about merit information.
- There is now an annual limit on our health care.
- The raises are not simply an additional contribution to retirement.

Faculty Issues:

- We have five candidates for the Minnie Stevens Piper award.
- The President and Provost want external review for promotion to full professor. As of right now, the application time is year 7.
- Commencement is too close to the end of classes. The committee will be looking into how adjustments can be made.
- The committee is working on developing a syllabus template and will talk with Melissa Hudler about it.

Research and Faculty Development:

- Applications will be accepted until Monday.
- Corrections were sent out on the call for the leave applications.
- The rubric and application information is on the website.
- The committee will be meeting in November.

F2.08 Task Force:

- We are gathering samples of processes from other schools.
- We have scheduled a meeting with the Provost to discuss our charge and goals.

Distinguished Faculty Lecture:

- The event is coming along well.
- We are waiting on posters and need help with distribution.
- Please come to the lecture.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Valentin Andreev made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.