APPROVED AND CORRECTED MINUTES

These minutes are disseminated to provide timely information to the Academic Senate. They have been approved by the body in question, and, therefore, they are the official minutes.

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
May 16, 2018


Absent: William Anderson, Elizabeth Bell, Dinesh Bhatia, Vladimir Dragovic, Eric Farrar, Todd Fechter, Andrea Fumagalli, Julie Haworth, William Hefley, D.T. Huynh, Joe Izen, Dohyeong Kim, Blair Miller, BPS Murthi, Won Namgoong, Viswanath Ramakrishna, Murat Torlak, Alejandro Zentner

Visitors: Eric Chen, Naomi Emmet, Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, John McCracken Jennifer McDowell, Terry Pankratz, Clint Peinhardt, Bill Pervin, Elizabeth Rugg, Beth Tolan, Marion Underwood,

1. Call to Order for the Academic Senate Meeting
President Benson called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. The University had 10 commencement ceremonies this spring. He noted that there were almost as many Masters Degrees as Undergraduate Degrees. The university is currently on track for a record amount of incoming freshmen for fall 2018; however, the master’s application pool is again down substantially. It is believed that this is due to fewer students from India and China applying due to the current political climate.

President Benson commented on the passing of Margaret McDermott, a long time benefactor to the university. She was 106 years old. President Benson opened the floor to questions. There were none.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Richard Scotch moved add a presentation on the recent cyber-attacks on campus to the agenda, and to approve the agenda with that amendment. Kurt Beron seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes
Richard Scotch moved to approve the circulated minutes. Matt Brown seconded. The motion carried.
4. Presentation- Update on Cyber-attacks on campus – Nate Howe
   During spring 2018 there were some serious breach attempts. There has been a significant increase in phishing emails, some using compromised internal email addresses. One of the breach attempts was a student attempting to change their grade. That incident has since been turned over to the Dean of Students. The most significant attempted breach was on May 8, 2018 to the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM). An attack came from outside of the university where the attacker somehow got access to the credentials of a computer administrator in NSM. On May 8th 150 computers were compromised and outgoing traffic was blocked. The compromised computers used Linux OS. This incident required the activation of the University’s third-party forensics partner. The investigation is continuing. As of May 16th, there are 280 compromised computers. Until the investigation is completed business operations in NSM will be seriously affected. To make sure that the breach cannot spread any further, computers must be completely erased and programs must be reinstalled. This has caused issues as many of the computers had class grades that must be turned for the end of the semester. Mr. Howe has asked that the faculty be patient with his team as they try to recover from the incident. The Office of Information Security is working with an outside firm to create a rapid recovery team for the incident.
   Mr. Howe advised the faculty that going forward the university will be considering two-factor logins for web mail and PeopleSoft when accessed off campus. They will also be investigating segmenting more systems. Mr. Howe asked to give a follow up presentation at the August Academic Senate meeting. When asked what the faculty can do to help the situation, Mr. Howe again noted that patience with his team would be very helpful. They are working on the situation, but it cannot be fixed in one week.

5. Speaker’s Report – Murray Leaf
   Nothing to report. All items are on the agenda.

6. SACSCOC Reaffirmation Updates – Serenity King
   1. Key Aspects of Orbit to Address Based on On-Site Reviewers’ Recommendations:
      a. Focus and content of Orbit programming (institutional capacity)
      b. Orbit leadership and initiative management (institutional capacity)
      c. Professional development for Orbit affiliated faculty and staff (institutional capacity)
      d. Assessment of student belonging, engagement, and persistence (assessment)
   2. Strategies to Address Key Aspects:
      a. Examine student belonging, engagement, and persistence at UT Dallas
      b. Define belonging and engagement for UT Dallas
      c. Revisit target student populations
      d. Hire Orbit director
      e. Develop program-level strategies aimed at increasing belonging and engagement
      f. Establish teams that work on program content, professional development, and assessment
   3. Conclusions:
      a. Maintain “Orbit: Keeping New Comets on Course” as first-year student success initiative for all first-year students in each of the four populations (first-time in college, transfer, graduate, international)
      b. For QEP five-year impact report due to SACSCOC in conjunction with the university’s Fifth-Year Interim Report, focus only on one population, specifically undergraduate transfer students
      c. Maintain New Student Engagement Board (NSEB)
d. Hire Orbit Director*, reporting to the Provost, who will work cooperatively with existing faculty and staff in academic affairs and student affairs to coordinate with NSEB on initiatives targeting all four populations, with an emphasis on transfer students.

4. Next Steps:
   a. Bi-weekly meetings (Provost Musselman, VP Fitch, Dean Murphy, Dean Smith, SACSCOC Liaison King, members of Assessment staff, additional personnel as discussion unfolds) to address strategies in 2 above
   b. Response Report due to SACSCOC by August 8, 2018

7. FAC Report – Murray Leaf
The meeting began at 10 am, Thursday, April 19, 2018. The first two hours were taken up with several presentations by Stephanie Huie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, and David Troutman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. They mainly talked about a large study of dual credit they have undertaken at FAC initiative. It has now turned into a cooperative effort with several state agencies. My general sense is that dual credit is here to stay and can be useful. A consistent statistical result is that students who have taken it do better in college, although it is not clear what causal relationships this might reflect. There are still many issues in defining it, saying who should teach such courses, and how they should be related to advanced placement.

Next item on the agenda was a lunch discussion with Dan Sharphorn, Director of the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Sharphorn mainly talked about the difference between Texas and Michigan, where he was previously, in the amount of time that has to be spent dealing with state initiatives. Michigan has a constitutional firewall preserving University autonomy. Texas does not.

The rest of the afternoon was spent on campus reports and committee meetings. Dr. Cordell is co-chair of Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality. Murray Leaf attended Governance. Governance spent most of time on the maternity leave policy that the Faculty Advisory Council is trying to help campuses develop. This included about an hour discussion with an attorney from the Office of General Counsel on the relationship between the federal family maternity leave policy and anything we might try to do. He emphasized that the federal policy does not require the time allowed off be taken as a block. It can be intermittent. So, for example, a woman who has graduate students can arrange her leave to include time for supervising them. This was news to me, although when I returned to UTD I found it was not news to our Human Resources office.

Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality presented a policy on NTS faculty, which the FAC endorsed.

The meeting continued on Friday with more committee meetings and campus reports. Rebecca Karoff reported on the Student Success Summit III that the system arranged. Apparently, people were happy with it.

The FAC spent most of the afternoon first discussing a recommendation for changing the Regents Rule dealing with upward evaluation of administrators. The amendments were coming from the health campuses primarily. They are unhappy with their administrations and want to be able to express this early and often. One change would be to have the evaluation every two years. Others concerned the presentation of results. Generally, I think we would find the changes unnecessarily repetitious, but in discussion I was assured that the wording was intended to allow enough faculty governance discretion for us to continue as we are now doing.
The next and last major item was discussion of a draft statement on freedom of speech. This resulted in a fairly acrimonious discussion that was inconclusive. It is continuing by email.

8. Student Government Report - Eric Chen
SG is continuing to work with the UTD Tech Store to have a tech vending machine installed across campus during the summer. During finals week, Starbucks and Papa John’s remained open until 2 AM for late night studying students. They are currently reviewing the data to decide if this is a program they wish to continue in the future. Student Government had its final FY 18 meeting on May 10, 2018. At the meeting the formal ceremony of transference to the new member ship occurred. The new membership’s goal for the next year to make several internal improvements.

9. CEP Recommendations - Clint Peinhardt

A. Policy on transfer credit from non-degree granting institutions

This policy was created in response to the SACSCOC external visit. They asked the university to create a policy that will put into place our willingness to accept credit from institutions that are not institutions of higher education. Dr. Peinhardt displayed on the overhead screen a copy of the policy that was approved by the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) at their May 2018 meeting. He noted that it differed slightly from what was passed by the Graduate Council and the Committee on Undergraduate Education. The difference in the CEP version was that it added an extra layer of approvals to the core documents of the required cooperative agreement. Those agreements will have to be approved by the Provost’s Office, the University Attorney, and the University Registrar; regardless, but for the next couple of years Academic Governance will need to give their approval as well. Dr. Peinhardt noted that CEP will be revisiting this policy many times over the next couple years. Dr. Peinhardt opened the floor to discussion.

In the documents provided it is noted that CEP’s version would be approved for executive education but Graduate Council’s did not. Dr. Peinhardt responded that the committee wished to include all versions of the policy for the Senate to review before a final version was approved. A request was made to explain why “for executive education only” was added to the CEP version of the Graduate Catalog language. Marion Underwood responded that because our university is young we cannot afford further difficulties were our integrity is questioned; therefore, for now we must reserve the transferring of credit from non-degree granting institutions to executive education. Jennifer Holmes expressed her concerns over the policy because EPPS has a program in which they are applying for a Coverdell Fellowship to support returning Peace Corp volunteers. The idea was that the university would give them course credit for their Peace Corp service as an alternative to a Dallas-based internship they would be qualified for. The proposed policy could prevent EPPS from pursuing this program.

Dr. Peinhardt noted that the proposed policy would not prevent the EPPS program forever, although it is not allowed in the policy. He noted that it is something the university could consider in the future. Serenity King’s office did an extensive survey of our peer institutions, and found that where credit like this was allowed, it was almost entirely for undergraduates. Marion Underwood noted that from the information that Serenity’s team gathered, there wasn’t a single school that accepted credit from a non-degree granting institution.
Matt Brown stated that there would not be any such transfer credit granted from non-degree issuing institutions unless it is part of executive education. Dr. Peinhardt confirmed his statement, and further noted that for the undergraduate component there are several exceptions built in due to federal regulations. An example is that the university can accept up to 12 hours of academic credit for military service, which is already in the undergraduate catalog. This requires the schools to ascertain what activities that they can allow for academic credit from previous work experience and non-academic institutional affiliations. It is because of situations like this that Dr. Peinhardt feel that the policy will need to be revisited several times over the coming years. Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the following:

**Graduate:** The University of Texas at Dallas awards academic credit for non-credit coursework not originating from the institution only in instances in which a signed cooperative agreement exists between the entity offering the non-credit work and the institution. The cooperative agreement must be reviewed and approved by the program faculty, the school administration, Graduate Council, the Committee on Educational Policy, Academic Senate, the Provost’s Office, the University Registrar, and the University Attorney. Terms of the agreement must specify the responsibilities of the outside entity, including their obligation to send instructor credentialing information, course syllabi with articulated outcomes and participant deliverables, and verification of participants’ completion, to the institution. Academically qualified UT Dallas faculty provide annual oversight of the outside entity’s content to ensure that non-credit work is comparable in both content and rigor for the awarding of an equivalent UT Dallas graduate credit experience in the respective degree program. Such transfer credit is awarded for purposes of executive education only.

**Undergraduate:** The University of Texas at Dallas does not award undergraduate academic credit for non-credit coursework not originating from the institution except as required by legislation regarding exam credit and military service, by terms agreed upon through a collaborative agreement with an outside entity, or by individual petition to the program head of the student’s declared major. The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education provides final approval of individual cases. Some schools or programs may opt to allow individual petitions as specified on their departmental webpages.

The cooperative agreement must be reviewed and approved by the program faculty, the school administration, Council for Undergraduate Education, the Committee on Educational Policy, Academic Senate, the Provost’s Office, the University Registrar, and the University Attorney. Terms of the agreement must specify the responsibilities of the outside entity, including their obligation to send instructor credentialing information, course syllabi with articulated outcomes and participant deliverables, and verification of participants’ completion, to the institution. Academically qualified UT Dallas faculty provide annual oversight of the outside entity’s content to ensure that non-credit work is comparable in both content and rigor for the awarding of an equivalent UT Dallas credit experience in the respective degree program.

27 yeas, 1 nay, and four abstained. The motion carried.

**B. New Program - BS in Data Science**

Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new degree program, BS in Data Science. The motion carried.
C. New Certificates in JSOM
   a. Transformational Leadership - Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new Certificate in Transformational Leadership. The motion carried unanimously.
   b. Negotiation and Mediation - Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new Certificate in Negotiation and Mediation. The motion carried unanimously.
   c. Organizational Consulting - Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new Certificate in Negotiation and Mediation. The motion carried unanimously.
   d. Strategic Human Resources - Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new Certificate in Strategic Human Resources. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Undergraduate Course Inventory
   Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the Undergraduate Course Inventory. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Graduate Course Inventory
   Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the Graduate Course Inventory. The motion carried unanimously.

F. First 40 pages - Undergraduate
   Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the revisions to the First 40 pages of the Undergraduate Catalog. The motion carried unanimously.

G. First 40 pages - Graduate
   Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the revisions to the First 40 pages of the Graduate Catalog. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Undergraduate Degree Plan Updates
   Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the undergraduate degree plans. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Graduate Degree Plan Updates
   Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the Graduate Degree plans. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion: Possible move to NCAA Division 2 Athletics – President Benson
Currently our university is a NCAA Division 3 university in the American Southwest Conference (ASC). We are unusual as a Division 3 school and in our conference. We are the second largest Division 3 School in the country. The only one larger is New York University. The other schools in the ASC are a factor of ten smaller than our university, i.e. we have 28,000 students they have 2,800. Most of the schools are church related, but three are public schools: Sul Ross State University, University of Texas at Tyler (UT-Tyler), and ourselves. UT-Tyler is leaving the conference and Division 3 starting FY19 moving to Division 2 and the Lone Star Conference. There is no other Division 3 conference that is available to our university except for ASC. The Division 2 – Lone Star Conference is very much interested in our university and would give us a warm welcome. President Benson asked the standing committee on athletics to begin an investigation into the feasibility of
having our university move to Division 2. President Benson reiterated that nothing has been decided, and it is strictly for information purposes at this point. Before the university could begin to make a decision of yes or no on a move, there are various bits of data that is needed. How would this change affect our reputation? What would it mean for our ability to compete? How much money would the university have to spend? What teams would need to be created? Would we need to have new athletic venues? To pull all the data it could take quite some time, and therefore to assist with data collection an outside consultant has been hired. They have assisted other universities with their moves, but their job is to guide our university in making a well-informed choice.

Our university’s athletic fee ($45) is close to the lowest in the conference, and by a factor of 10 lower than what it is at Division 2 schools. Our fee has not changed in 20-years, and UT System is not keen to have that number go up anytime soon. Even if the university made the decision to move to Division 2, the university would need student support for an increase in the fee. Early vetting has shown a good amount of student support. If the university was to petition the NCAA for the change to Division 2, it would not be until 2020. And even then it could be a couple more years until the move was made. It is possible that after all of the research and data it may be found that Division 3 may be the best place for our university.

There are currently carrot and stick reasons for making the move to Division 2. We are not the same school we were when our university began competing at Division 3. It could be a good thing to be among other schools with similar enrollment, and not the second biggest Division 3 school. The stick reasons are that the other schools in Division 3 would like not to compete with our university, and we could be forced to become independent. Going independent would not be good for our student athletes.

One of the stipulations with going Division 2 would require the funding of a small number of athletic scholarships. Division 3 does not require athletic scholarships to be offered. Greg Dess raised a question as to how many athletic scholarships would be required if we went Division 2. Kurt Beron responded that the university competes in 13 sports. For Division 2 we would need only one more sport, but it would be ideal to have 16 sports. Dr. Beron reminded the Senate members that many of their alma maters had high profile athletics, but that is not what our university plans to do. All of the scholarships would be partial. An example was given that the basketball team might have thirteen players, but there would be 8-9 whole scholarships divided up among them. Most these would be scholarships to pay for books. The average scholarship pool at Division 2 schools is $2 million, but any student getting a scholarship would have to meet our university’s academic requirements. Greg Dess raised the question of if it was possible to have a hybrid model where only certain sports were Division 2, while the rest were Division 3. Kurt Beron responded that it wasLe not possible. There were only 5 schools who had mixed divisions and those are Division 1/ Division 3 schools. Murray Leaf requested confirmation on a statement made by Gene Fitch at the Academic Council meeting that the school would have to provide 108 full time equivalent scholarships. Dr. Leaf wanted to know how that would be handled. Dr. Beron responded that those 108 full time equivalent scholarships would be split to assist 300-400 individual students as their coaches saw fit. Dr. Leaf asked if offering athletic scholarships was required. Dr. Beron responded that the university must have a minimum amount of roughly $800k of athletic scholarships to be part of Division 2. A question was raised if one of the new sports that would need to be added for Division 2 would be football. Unequivocally football would NOT be one of the sports added should the university transition to Division 2. One sport that is being considered would be track and field. A concern was raised that the athletic scholarships would come at the expense of academic...
scholarships. President Benson responded that would not be the case, our students are academics who enjoy playing athletics.

All present understand that these discussions are strictly for informational purposes, and any decision is months, if not years, away. Nothing is being authorized or not authorized. The transition, should it occur, is years away. That being said, Speaker Leaf stated that when a decision on the transition was eminent, the academic Senate will vote on it. Incoming Speaker of the Faculty Senate, Ravi Prakash concurred.

Further, Dr. Prakash requested clarification on the statement made by Gene Fitch in the April 2018 UTD Mercury article “UTD considering DII move”: “Ultimately, my goal would be Division I, because that’s what we must closely match up with, but the NCAA requires you to go through Division II first.” President Benson assured the Academic Senate that moving to Division 1 was not on the table at all. However, should the university choose to go down that path decades from now, the only way to do that would be to transition to Division 2 at some point. President Benson cautioned the faculty against an assumption of a negative correlation between athletics and academics. Our university has amazing academics who are also amazing athletics. A school’s academics are not lowered due to the amount of athletics a school has.

11. Authorize an Email Vote to approve Summer Graduates- Murray Leaf
   R. Chandrasekaran moved to authorize an email vote to approve Summer Graduates. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

12. Authorize an Email Vote to Approve Faculty Appointments to Committees - Dr. Leaf
   R. Chandrasekaran moved to authorize an email vote to approve faculty appointments recommended by the Committee on Committees. Richard Scotch seconded. The motion carried.

13. Hearing Tribunal Appointments - Dr. Leaf
   Dr. Leaf reported that all tribunal pool members are eligible to be reappointed. Andrew Blanchard moved to reappoint the tribunal members. Alex Piquero seconded. The motion carried.

14. Acknowledgement of Murray Leaf and David Cordell’s hard work for Academic Governance – Richard Scotch
   Richard Scotch stood and acknowledge the hard work of Murray Leaf and David Cordell in the past year and beyond to Academic Governance. This was their final meeting as Speaker of the Faculty and Secretary of the Faculty. The members in attendance applauded in appreciation.

15. Adjournment
   There being no further business, President Benson adjourned the meeting at 2:32 PM

APPROVED: [Signature]                      DATE: 6 Feb 2019

Murray Leaf,
Speaker of the Faculty