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
April 17, 2019


Absent: Mohammad Akbar, Dinesh Bhatia, Judd Bradbury, Mathew Brown, Monica Brussolo, Pankaj Choudhary, Nadine Connell, Vladimir Dragovic, Andrea Fumagalli, M. Ali Hooshyar, Paul Lester, Meenakshi Maitra, John McCracken, BPS Murthi, Shalini Prasad, Suresh Radhakrishna,

Visitors: Eric Chen, Melinda Colby, Darren Crone, Frank Feagans, Gene Fitch, Juan Gonzales, Nate Howe, Calvin Jamison, Serenity King, Abby Kratz, Jennifer McDowell, Terry Pankratz, Clint Peinhardt, Bill Pervin, Scott Simpson,

1. Call to Order for the Academic Senate Meeting and Announcements – President Benson

President Benson called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. President Benson has just come from a meeting with the Chief of Police and other emergency management staff members. An email was sent out to all faculty, staff and students that the university would close at 3:00PM on April 17, 2019 due the dangerous storm that is moving into area. President Benson was concerned for member of campus being caught in storm rush hour traffic. The safety of Faculty, Staff and Students is his main concern.

The House is supportive of the university, especially through Texas Research Incentive Program. There is currently a backlog of 182 million, of which 50 million is earmarked for our university. A Tuition Revenue Bond is on the table for the creation of a shared building for bio-engineering with UT-Southwester, and a new Student Success building. The creation of new building on our campus is critical as UTD is a fast growing public institution in Texas.

The university is expecting another record freshman class this fall, and high admissions; however the graduation rate is appearing to be flat to previous years. He opened the floor to questions, there were none.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Murray Leaf moved to approve the agenda. Nicole Piquero seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. **Approval of the Minutes**

   Murray Leaf moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Andy Blanchard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. **Speaker’s Report – Ravi Prakash**

   - On April 16, 2019, a group of faculty met with Terry Pankratz to discuss the recent procurement issues. The group will meet again in May. Pankratz was invited to give a presentation on these issues and possible solutions at the August or September Academic Senate meeting.
   - The UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting is April 11-12, 2019. Vice-Speaker Murray Leaf and Speaker Ravi Prakash attend as UTD representatives. A report on that meeting is later in the agenda.
   - Speaker Prakash encouraged the faculty to participate in the new faculty orientation and mentoring. This is important for new professors. Speaker Prakash urged the senate members to assist as a mentor for the new professors in their areas.
   - All other items that I have been working on are on the agenda.

5. **SACSCOC/ The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Updates – Serenity King**

   Serenity King summarized a hand out that is enclosed as Appendix A.

6. **FAC/TXCF S Report – Ravi Prakash and Bill Hefley**

   Ravi Prakash Murray Leaf -April 11-12, 2019

   The meeting was held at the UT System Office in Austin and was attended by representatives from all eight academic campuses and five out of six medical campuses. No representative from UT MD Anderson Cancer Center attended the meeting.

   One of the first issues to be discussed was the appointment of Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson as the President of UT El Paso. There has been significant opposition to this appointment among UT El Paso faculty, students, and the local community. FAC members felt a need to revisit how faculty are involved in the search process for Presidents, and other administrators. Over-emphasis on non-disclosure, and the role private search firms play in the process is not necessarily in the best interests of universities. Concerns were raised about the neutrality of search firms. There have been instances where representatives of search firms seem to be so familiar with specific candidates that it is not clear if they are working in the best interests of the university or as agents for specific applicants.

   Following discussion on the UT El Paso President appointment, FAC adopted the following resolution: *Expand the text in Section 1.3 of the Rule on searches to provide that the job description should be drafted by the search committee and sent to campus governance bodies for their responses.*

   There was a discussion on the FAC resolution on free speech versus the Chicago/Princeton Principles on free speech: both among FAC members and, subsequently, in a meeting with Chancellor Milliken. University of Chicago and Princeton University are private institutions. UT
System is a public university system and a limited public forum. While FAC endorses several ideas in the Chicago Principles, it has already prepared its own statement on free speech that is aligned with the UT System Regents Rules. UT System is the second largest university system in the country, and it should play a leadership role, rather than follow other universities.

At the last meeting, Chancellor Milliken asked the FAC to consider endorsing the Chicago statement (as we reported). The FAC considered it and unanimously decided to stick with its original position. At this meeting, he asked again to talk to us about it, and again asked the FAC to consider endorsing the Chicago statement/the Princeton statement. The FAC affirmed its original position and further was very clear that its obligation was to represent the faculty, not to support the Chancellor. Members of the FAC were also increasingly interested in what the Chancellor's motives were, and what, precisely, he had in mind in bringing this back again. We spoke at lunch on the second day, for a half hour. The immediate outcome was that the Chancellor said the immediate need had passed. The implicit longer term outcome was that he appears to be taking the FAC position, and the Regents Rule that it supports, more seriously than he had up now.

The Governance Committee of FAC is gathering information about faculty grievance policies on all campuses. UT Dallas has already responded to this request. Right now, there are several different offices, several added in response to specific federal or state regulations, dealing with different kinds of grievance. This can cause confusion.

Wanda Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, addressed the FAC. Her office has been considering issues related to parental leave, graduate students, tuition fees, sexual violence prevention, student mental health and safety. A system-wide Title IX coordinator may be hired.

Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, discussed revised workload policies, Affordable Learning Accelerator taskforce, and the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) pilot program to increase teaching effectiveness.

FAC discussed issues of salary compression and inversion, and steps taken on campuses to address this problem. UT Arlington has recently increased the amount of automatic raise on promotions, from $3,000 to $5,000 for promotion from assistant to associate professor, and from $5,000 to $10,000 for promotion from associate to full professor. UT Arlington President announced this in an open forum about 3-4 weeks back. At UT Austin, over ten years, attempts to achieve gender equity in salary have resulted in parity between male and female faculty members (controlling for other variables). Most universities focus on recruitment, and often not so much on retention.

Student feedback surveys were discussed. UT Arlington and UT Austin have studied this issue extensively. FAC believes that universities should use holistic measures to assess teaching quality, and not rely solely or primarily on student feedback surveys.
On health campuses, one-year contracts for non-tenure track faculty (most clinicians are on such contracts) and high faculty turnover continue to be major concerns. UT Health Science Center in Houston has experienced an 11% annual turnover, with six hundred faculty departures in five years.

The last event was a meeting with Regent Rad Weaver. He graduated from UT Austin with a bachelor’s degree in Finance in the late-90s and is currently the CEO of McCombs Partners. He said that both his parents were school teachers and he is very appreciative of the work faculty members do. He welcomed suggestions from FAC members, and seemed especially receptive to providing tuition aid for children of UT System employees attending UT System institutions, paid parental leave, and longer term contracts for non-tenure track faculty.

7. **Student Government Report – Eric Chen**
   FY19 Student Government President Eric Chen introduced the FY20 new Student Government President and Vice President. SG is wrapping up various projects but several will continue into the next term. He thanked the body for all of their support in the past year.

8. **Staff Council Report –**
   No representatives were in attendance.

9. **CEP Recommendations – Clint Peinhardt**
   A. **Undergraduate Course Inventory**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the Undergraduate Course Inventory. The motion carried.
   B. **Graduate Course Inventory**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the Graduate Course Inventory. The motion carried.
   C. **Certificate in Local Government Management**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the new Certificate in Local Government Management. The motion carried.
   D. **Certificate in innovation and Entrepreneurship**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The motion carried.
   E. **Major in Historical Studies to Major in History**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the name change. The motion carried.
   F. **Changes in Undergraduate Programs**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes. The motion carried.
   G. **Changes in Graduate Programs**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes. The motion carried.
   H. **Catalog Update- Undergraduate Certificates and Double Dipping**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to the catalog. The motion carried.
   I. **Catalog Update- Fast Track Language**
      Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to the catalog. The motion carried.
   J. **Catalog Update- Registration Requirements**
Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to the catalog. The motion carried.

K. Undergraduate First 40 policies
Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the undergraduate first 40 policies. The motion carried.

L. Graduate First 40 Policies
Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the graduate first 40 policies. The motion carried.

M. Syllabus Template Update- Social Media
Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to the Syllabus Template. Bill Hefley noted that the amended sentence should also be included in the student’s code of conduct. Dr. Peinhardt noted that this change came from the Committee on Undergraduate Education due to specific instances of cheating, and was approved by the Committee on Educational Policy. Matt Brown moved to table this item until it was reviewed by the Committee on Academic Integrity. Joe Izen seconded. The motion carried with one nay vote.

N. Policy Change – Change in Major in ECS
Clint Peinhardt moved on the behalf of CEP to approve the changes to the policy. The motion carried.

10. Presentation: Email Migration and Spam Filtering – Frank Feagans
Frank Feagans and Nate Howe presented a series of slides to the senate membership detailing the rational of why the Information Technology and Information Security group are moving to a different program for Email management and Spam Filtering. They presented a time line of when these changes will be made, and how the information on the change will be conveyed across the campus in the next 2 months. A copy of the presentation is enclosed in Appendix B.

11. Informational: Appointments to the Committee on Committees – Ravi Prakash
Speaker Prakash encouraged the Council members to speak with their colleges to find recommendations to be on the committee. He reminded the Senate member that the nominees should be available the second and third week of June in order to attend the meeting. Bill Hefley will also be sending out emails to committee chairs for recommendations for committees, and the link to the volunteer system will be up shortly.

12. Informational: Removal of UTDPP1065 – Ravi Prakash
The policy contains redundant information that is found in other policies. By consensus the senators agreed it should be removed from the policy navigator.

13. Informational: Update on OSA Accommodations for Testing Issue – Bill Hefley
A subcommittee of the University Accessibility Committee was created to address these issues. They have been working with the testing center and Darren Crone to assemble a list of resources and funding required to facilitate those resources. Currently a new procedure is being beta tested, and should be ready for fall semester 2019. So far, the beta testing is going well.

14. Approval of Spring 2019 Graduates – Bill Hefley
Bill Hefley moved that:
These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The Office of Records has declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon the
completion of the current semester’s work at the necessary levels. I move, therefore, that the Faculty Senate certify these students to graduate upon receipt of final grades, and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades are consistent with the standards for graduation prescribed by this University. I also request that the Faculty Senate certify those students designated as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of coursework and requirements consistent with the standards for honors at the levels offered by this University. Andrew Blanchard seconded. The motion carried.

Bill Hefley moved that:
These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all of these students will be eligible for the degrees indicated upon satisfactory completion of the current semester’s work. I move, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify these students to receive the degrees as indicated upon receipt of final grades and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades received are consistent with the standards for credit prescribed by this University. Andrew Blanchard seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment
There being no further business, President Benson adjourned the meeting 2:30 PM.

APPROVED: ___________________________  DATE:  _____________

Ravi Prakash
Speaker of the Faculty
THECB/Legislative Update to Senate
April 17, 2019

1. Past THECB Meetings:
   a. University Accountability Meeting April 4-5, attended by Dr. Courtney Brecheen, OUE Associate Dean and THECB Data Fellow
      Two-day meeting; day 1 included CC’s by region; day 2 was universities only
      Day 2: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?ObjectID=F2D60DC0-4CEF-11E9-A95D0050560100A9
      Subsequent campus meeting in June to discuss related initiatives; faculty will be invited to participate to share completion strategies in schools
   b. Top Improver Webinar (analysis of completion targets) Peer group/region...how to download completion, grad rate, and transfer data
   c. Webinar Field of Study: https://youtu.be/KAm46na5x78

2. Upcoming THECB Meetings
   a. THECB Undergraduate Education Advisory Council April 26
      i. UT Dallas reps Marilyn Kaplan (term ends spring 19) and Hope Cory (student, term ends 2020)
      ii. Election of co-chair
      iii. Discussion of reducing core curriculum hours/legislative bills
   b. Board meeting April 25
      i. Presentation by UT San Antonio on their Strategic Plan
         PPT: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12351.PDF?CFID=97403445&CFTOKEN=87527022
         Handout: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12350.PDF?CFID=97403445&CFTOKEN=87527022
      ii. Major Policy Discussion: Providing Access without Unnecessary Duplication (how to consider online programs)
         http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12322.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871
      iii. Efficiencies in Student Pathways to Completion (completion measures, including graduation rates and transfer rates will be discussed)
         http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12322.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871
iv. TRIP funds (Refer to page 3 of this handout)
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12322.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871 - page=36

v. Bioinformatics and Computational Biology LPP recommended for closure by THECB
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12322.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12339.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871

vi. Texas OnCourse expansion (online career counseling for parents, students, and educators)
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12322.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871

vii. Field of Study review schedule (every five years)
http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/12322.PDF?CFID=97404848&CFTOKEN=32587871

viii. Field of Study up next: Chemistry; UT Dallas will want to nominate

3. Legislative Bills
   a. HB 375 Polling on Campus: Referred to Elections
   b. SB 64: Incentivizes Cybersecurity degree programs (Senate Higher Education Committee, printed and distributed)
   c. HB 4175: Public speaking courses cannot be online (House Higher Education Committee, left pending)
   d. SB 502: Report on Nontransferable credit (Senate Higher Education Committee, placed on intent calendar)
   e. SB 1923/SB 25: Transfer credit (Senate Higher Education Committee, SB 1923 left pending/SB 25 placed on intent calendar)
   f. SB 2058: Waivers of tuition/fees for courses not transferred toward degree program, including electives (Senate Higher Education Committee, left pending)
   g. HB 449: Require disciplinary notation on student’s transcript: Passed to engrossment as amended
   h. HB 4586: Expansion of geographic location (House Higher Education Committee, left pending)
   i. HB 3395: Protection of expressive activities (House Higher Education Committee, left pending)
Below are certified TRIP gifts and the amount of the state match by institution. State matches are subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose.

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**Report Data as of: 02/26/19**

**Total Counts**

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04/19