The Faculty Senate met in regular session Wednesday, November 15, 1995 at 2:30 P.M. in Conference Room 4, Davis Hall. Chair John Beehler presided.

ATTENDANCE:

Present were President Witt, Provost Wright, Director of Libraries Wilding, Student Congress President Alvarenga, Senators Beehler, Bradshaw, Burquest, Devarajan, Eidelberg, Ellwood, Fairbanks, Frye, Gaupp, Hart, Harvey, Herrmann, Hickey, Hissong, Jackson, Jones, Jordan, Manry, McDowell, McKinney, Moore, Payne, Pinney, Porter, Priest, Rajeshwar, Rodnitzky, Thompson, Wilmore, Yardley, and Zeidler. Senators Chan, Dunn, Hamilton, Himarios, Jarboe, Korzeniowski, Matthys, Rutherford, Walker, Weed and Weems were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 18, 1995 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR:

Chair Beehler asked the committee chairs to continue to work on the committee charges during the remainder of the semester so that some issues are ready for deliberation by the January 31st meeting.

Chair Beehler reported on the President’s Advisory Committee meeting. He asked a joint committee composed of the Budget and the Operating Procedures Committees to study developing a policy for compensating former administrators who return to teaching. President Witt indicated that an unbundling of total compensation into an academic rate and an administrative rate may be needed. Senator Pinney will call the first meeting. It was suggested that the ad hoc committee ask the Council of Deans and the Association of Academic Chairs for input.

Chair Beehler asked the members of the President’s Advisory Committee to forward their Spring 1996 schedules to him so that Spring Semester committee meetings may be scheduled.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

President Witt reported that a search will soon be in progress for a Dean of Engineering and a Director of the Center for Professional Teacher Education. A couple of Deans are also up for review. The handbook states that “a faculty committee shall be elected.” With respect to the searches, he suggested five faculty members be elected from the appropriate college, center or school and two faculty members (at least one from outside the college) be appointed by the President. The committee would also include a graduate student, an undergraduate student, and a representative from the unit’s advisory council. The committee chair would be a Dean.

As for the evaluation process, President Witt inquired as to whether it would be better to appoint a Dean as chair of the committee or ask the committee to elect its own chair. He asked for feedback.

Chair Beehler indicated that an ad hoc University committee has created a document on the review of academic administrators and Senator Payne is the chair of the committee. The President would like to see this document. Beehler suggested that there be a representative on the committee from each department in the college.

The question was posed as to whether or not the UT System allows the use of revolving chairs model like many European universities. The President said that he is not aware of one. There is a required four year review of deans and academic chairs at UTA.
REMARKS BY THE PROVOST:

Student enrollment needs to be increased. The administration is working on visits to high schools in the metroplex area, perhaps taking former students. A suggestion has been made to establish a stable of faculty scholars whose current research is interesting and newsworthy who would be available to speak to area high schools.

A search is in progress for Vice Provost for Computing and Information Technology. Fifty applications were received and Dan Williams, John McElroy, Michael Moore, Keith MacDowell, Mark Hensel, Linda Moxley, and Tom Wilding are looking at the files to determine a short list. The administration hopes to have a person in place early in the new year.

Provost Wright has discussed the issue of faculty development with Senator Moore, Chair of the Faculty Senate Research and Development Committee and has received input from Vice Provost Klarman and the Deans.

One Senator indicated that visits to area high schools often involve only honors students. There is a need to meet the average student. Perhaps it would be better for them to come to the UTA campus.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST:

An inquiry was made as to having more positive articles about UTA in the Dallas Morning News. The administration is working with Lauri Palmer on improving public relations with Dallas.

One senator suggested working with high school counselors, who are the link to students. Shirley Binder, the newly appointed Director of Enrollment plans to have counselors visit UTA’s campus.

A UTA hospitality suite will be open at the counselors’ next convention. It was mentioned that UTA does not have a program for counseling and therefore loses out on some networking.

Sending a video tape of UTA to area high schools was suggested, as well as coffee nights for prospective students and parents sponsored by alumni. It was suggested that the internet be used and it was pointed out and that Blockbuster Video makes community service tapes available free of charge.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Operating Procedures-no report.

Research and Development-no report.

The Academic Liaison Committee handed out a questionnaire regarding the evaluation and mentoring of adjunct faculty and GTA’s. The name of the department or program needs to be indicated on the sheet.

The Special Projects Committee is accepting nominations for Professors Emeriti.

Vice President Williams will report for the Budget Liaison Committee.

The Student Services Liaison Committee has made progress in their meetings.

Ethics-no report.

The Equity Committee is looking at grievance procedures at the University of Texas at Dallas. Since UT-Dallas’ procedures have been approved by the UT System, the committee may base its document on some of their policies.

Tenure and Academic Freedom and Responsibilities-no report.

OLD BUSINESS: none
NEW BUSINESS:

- Dan Williams, Vice President for Finance and Administration, gave a report on the UTA budget. Handouts included an All Funds Operating Budget Summary; a Summary of College Budgets; a Comparison of Funds for Fiscal Years 1961, 1971, 1991, and 1996; and the Potential Impact of Enrollment Decline.

He also presented some trends in the State of Texas and the UT System Operating Budget in particular. State appropriations by the legislators include funding for the Department of Public Safety and prisons, Health and Human Services, etc. and 12% of the budget goes to higher education. Higher education is a discretionary item and is often the last item decided in the budgetary process.

Summer 1996 through Spring of 1997 will be a base period. The situation is manageable at this point but we need to take control and do a better job of managing. UTA will lose several million dollars in funding if enrollment continues to decrease.

President Witt commented that these numbers are not beyond our control. Whether or not those numbers materialize is every individual's responsibility. Faculty and staff's reaction to a question or a catalog request, the way phones are answered and the way students are treated may put another student on this campus. Words of encouragement may put another student in a class. We must have a higher standard than community colleges if students are paying more at UTA for the same class.

Pam Haws of Institutional Research and Planning presented a report on an Institutional Research Study of Twelve Month Faculty Salaries during the past five years at the request of Senator Pinney, chair of last year's Faculty Senate Budget Committee. The study was based on 302 faculty who were continuously employed for a five year period and remained at the same rank. There was an overall 5% increase in gross salary over that five year period.

Senator Jordan reported on the Fall COFGO Meeting held in Austin in October. COFGO is composed of representatives of thirty-six universities. One speaker talked about influencing legislators and another about distribution of funds, stressing that the prison system gets more funding than higher education. The faculty are not networking with legislators. They should invite legislators on campus to speak to classes, etc. Another topic dealt with distance learning and faculty protection in this area. One can earn a degree through teleconference. This allows more courses to be offered in rural areas. Distance learning is seen as a trend. The chair of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board spoke on the Board's influence on improving conditions of faculty including salaries. On the second day there was a business meeting and roundup report. Major issues included transition to a new system or new President, merit increases, faculty governance, faculty evaluation process, drop in student enrollment, free speech on the internet, and summer school salaries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Moore, Secretary