MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session Wednesday, September 27, 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, Chan, Eidelman, Ellwood, Fairbanks, Frye, Gaupp, Harvey, Herrmann, Hickey, Himarios, Hissong, Jackson, Jones, Jordan, Korzeniowski, Matthys, McKinney, Moore, Payne, Pinney, Porter, Priest, Rodnitzky, Rutherford, Thompson, Walker, Weed, Weems, Wilmore, Yardley, and Zeidler. Absent were Senators Burquest, Devarajan, Dunn, Hamilton, Hart, Jarboe, McDowell, Manry, and Rajeshwar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 19, 1995 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR:

After welcoming the Faculty Senate members, Chair Beehler stated that there is a feeling of renewal on the campus and he looks forward to working with the new administration. He then introduced the executive committee--Senators Rod Hissong-Vice-Chair/Chair elect, Michael Moore-Secretary (aided by transcriber Wilma Arthurs), Laurie Porter-Parliamentarian, and Catheleen Jordan-COFGO representative.

Chair Beehler reported that a memo was received from Vice President for Business Affairs Dan Williams stating that the amount of money received from the sale of surplus items is too small to warrant the expense involved in distributing it back to the departments.

The Chair informed the Senate that the two documents relating to program abandonment and the review of academic administrators have come out of the committees and are in Dr. Witt's hands. The document submitted by the Ethics Committee is going on to the Undergraduate Assembly this semester. Chair Beehler and Rod Hissong will represent UTA at the UT System Faculty Advisory Council next week. He and some other members of the Faculty Senate are serving on the Provost Search Committee.

Chair Beehler identified various issues to be addressed this year by Faculty Senate.

- University Grievance Procedures--Equity Committee
- Faculty Development (e.g., leave policy, funding)--Research and Development Committee
- The Handbook of Operating Procedures needs to be updated and the UT System would like the Faculty Senate to include their bylaws in the HOP
- Student issues--Student Services Liaison Committee
- The Staff Council would like their President to be an ex officio member of the Senate in the same manner as the Student Congress President.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

Working closely with the Faculty Senate is a good mechanism for keeping communication channels open. President Witt will meet regularly with the executive and advisory committees. He would like to present new initiatives and concerns in which he and Provost Wright will be engaged so the Senators will know about them in advance. Senators can then bring faculty opinion back to the body for discussion.

The President and Provost are meeting with various faculty groups trying to get a feel for the needs of the units. One of the
goals of the administration is to try to ensure that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts— the university being the whole and the academic and administrative units being the parts—and take advantage of opportunities for synergy, cooperation and working together in a strategic way.

The administration has made some adjustments to the tenure and promotion process. They felt it would be more equitable for each candidate to have at least three external references selected by the department committee or chair and identified as such, plus other references selected by the candidate.

They will move the timing of the tenure and promotion process up a little bit with a date of December 11 for materials to come from the Dean's office to the Provost and President. This will give the faculty member more time to look elsewhere if need be.

A second item deals with class schedules. We need to do a better job of satisfying students' demands so they can make good progress toward their degrees. Information on how enrollment has progressed in past semesters will be made available to the academic units.

The administration will also be taking a look at classroom scheduling. Some classrooms are only filled at 30% of capacity while across campus, there are critical needs. They will try to do a better job of managing a relatively scarce resource but faculty may be teaching across campus rather than in the same building as their offices.

Regarding faculty recruiting, all open positions cannot be filled this academic year. Start-up costs associated with hiring new faculty are substantial, e.g., cost of equipment. The administration has asked the deans to work with the department chairs in setting priorities as to what positions should be filled first.

A task force composed of faculty and staff will be put together to take a look at the general question of space utilization and renovation to make more space. It will be useful to involve the landscape architecture group in the process. Relatively modest investments in that area can have an impact on the attractiveness of a campus.

A Scholarship Walk is being established as part of the Centennial program to raise endowed scholarships and to establish a link between alumni and the university.

REMARKS BY THE PROVOST:

The Provost said that he is an administrator but he is first and foremost a faculty member and faculty are the heart and soul of a university. They develop the curriculum, establish standards by which faculty are evaluated, and are involved in every aspect of the research enterprise. We must find meaningful ways to acknowledge and reward faculty as both scholars and teachers for their contributions to UTA. He is concerned about faculty development. The Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost can work together to come up with ideas of how funds can be utilized for faculty development.

He respects the concept of faculty governance. Having one's ideas heard and then debated is the strength of a university. Even those who are disappointed that a decision went against them can accept the decision if they are given the opportunity to express their ideas and provide input.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST:

Bill Pinney, Information Systems and Management Sciences, has found no information in the Handbook of Operating Procedures as to the duties of the Provost and asked the administration to get some words together to bring the HOP in line with our actual situation.

Burley Walker, Management, stated that the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee of the Faculty Senate was cut out of the tenure and promotion deliberations last year and asked that they be allowed to participate in the process in the future. Secondly, he requested that regarding the mentoring program, the definition of minorities be broadened to include ethnic minorities other than Hispanics and African-Americans.

Chair Beechler stated that each school, college and center was represented on a committee to look at the Tenure and
Promotion area, chaired by Tom Hellier, Biology. They plan on coming up with general guidelines rather than writing a document. Chair Beehler has told Tom Hellier that the Faculty Senate has a committee that would like to be involved in the process. Hellier is willing to report to the Faculty Senate on the results of the committee's deliberations.

President Witt said that he would meet with the Faculty Senate statutory committee as well as the University committee on a regular basis. The administration is looking at the ad hoc committees that were appointed over the last 12 to 18 months.

Jerry Rodnitzky, History, inquired about the idea of a comprehensive university with programs promoted equally across the board versus concentration on certain programs. President Witt replied that he believes in the concept of a comprehensive university. A major research and teaching institution needs balanced strength across the university. However, every program in every area cannot receive the same exact amount of support. We need to retain appropriate balance across the institution since a student receives his or her degree from the entire university.

President Witt has set aside a relatively modest amount of money to begin equity adjustments among academic units.

Manfred Zeidler (Biomedical Engineering) brought up the parking situation. President Witt said that the matter of reserved parking will be revisited for the coming academic year.

Craig Zemmin, coordinator of the Maverick Express office, attended the meeting and answered a few questions regarding the gated parking lots.

Senator Herrmann, Physics, brought up the question of why students are not being retained--GPA, financial concerns, or other.

The motion was made, seconded, and passed to suspend the rules and move to item 9 on the agenda.

Debra Hill, Accounting Chair, asked for some uniform guidance on adding students to the class rolls after the four official add/drop days. Susie Libotte, Director of the Registration Center, replied that it is possible for a student to add or drop until the census date. Students are told that the registration center can not add after the second day of classes but the departments sometimes do. There are problems associated with the ad hoc extension of the posted drop/add dates. It was suggested that the departments learn how to say no but Senator Bradshaw suggested that judgments need to be made on individual cases and the Faculty Senate can not make policy for everybody. Senator Herrmann made a motion that the matter be assigned to the Student Services Liaison Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M. and the Senators then signed up for the standing and statutory committees.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Michael K. Moore
Secretary