MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

The Faculty Senate met in regular session on Wednesday, April 19, 1995 at 2:30 P.M. in Conference Room 4, Davis Hall. Chair John Beehler presided.

ATTENDANCE: Present were President Amacher, Senators Beehler, Bradshaw, Burquest, Chan, Dunn, Fairbanks, Frye, Gintole, Hart, Hickey, Jones, Jordan, Korzeniowski, McDowell, McKinney, Moore, Pape, Petry, Pinney, Porter, Ridgway, Rockitzky, Rutherford, Ryan, Scotesse, Walker, Weed, Wilding, Prophet for Wilmore, Yardley, and Zeidler. Provost Taylor and Senators Birmingham, Black, Devarajan, Harvey, Himarios, Jackson, Jarboe, Melde, Payne, Rajeshwar, Weems, and Wilmore (represented by Marsha Prophet) were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 22, 1995 meeting were approved.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR:

Chair Beehler has met with Interim President Witt and was favorably impressed. President Witt indicated he believes in shared governance and encourages faculty involvement in the process. He is open minded and is willing to reconsider items that have been rejected in the past, (e.g. the raising of admission standards and the role and scope of athletics at UTA).

The Chair commented on the report by Assistant Provost Bernstein dealing with the information technology fee which is being proposed. The Provost asked for copies to be made available to the faculty for later discussion.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

President Amacher reported that the next two or three weeks in Austin will be critical. The Texas Senate version of the budget shows an increase of 4.5% for UTA for the next two years. The House version shows a reduction of .5% with a wish list of special line items that were not funded. The final budget usually falls somewhere between the two versions.

REMARKS BY THE PROVOST:

There were no remarks as the Provost had to go to a special meeting of interest to the university on the North Texas Commission.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The President was asked if he had any information on the proposed change in Teachers' Retirement. He replied that he heard there might be an opportunity to go back into the state system on a one time basis.

A question was raised about the survival rate of line items. President Amacher replied that line items from previous years, e.g., the African program, the Center for Mexican American Studies and a line item to make up for an overestimate in the previous period have survived but will again be the subject of debate. Much support has been received from Senator Moncrief.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Liaison: No Report
Ethics: Senator Fairbanks presented a modified statement of a Faculty Code of Ethics to help clarify concerns that were raised last year. A motion was made and seconded to accept the document. A discussion was held and it was suggested that the document go back to the faculty for feedback. It was pointed out that the document was distributed two months ago to Faculty Senate. Additionally, it has been around for two years and will go to the Undergraduate Assembly and Graduate Assembly. Therefore, there will be ample time to again modify the document.

A friendly amendment was offered by Senator Bradshaw saying that in every instance, the phrase "examples of unacceptable conduct" be replaced by "prima facia examples of unacceptable conduct."

A motion was made and seconded to table the original motion to accept the document. The motion to table failed.

Senator Porter offered an amendment under F-1 which states "This code of ethics for faculty members shall not go into effect until it is approved by the Undergraduate Assembly and the Graduate Assembly. It is urged that a similar code of ethics for staff, students, and administrators. The amendment was seconded and adopted. A motion to accept the document as amended was passed with one nay vote.

Operating Procedures Committee: The Senate approved specific wording and clarification in connection with the amendments to the Bylaws that were approved at the March 22, 1995 and Spring 1994 meetings.

Specific wording for certain amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws was also adopted. Under Section I, Purpose was changed to Nature and Purpose and put into a positive form. The second paragraph in the proposed change was dropped.

A change under Section VILA was approved stating that the President's Advisory Committee meet with the President prior to each Senate meeting. This was added to insure regular meetings.

Under VLB the following addition was approved: The President of the University of Texas at Arlington shall provide the Faculty Senate with a statement setting forth reasons for requesting reconsideration of prior Faculty Senate legislation.

Two Governance Committee resolutions were approved. The first one reads: Subsequent to the last regular meeting of the Spring semester the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall prepare an executive summary providing a summary of the major activities and accomplishments of the Faculty Senate during the past year. This summary shall be distributed to the university community during the first month of the Fall semester.

In order to comply with the way other institutions are represented, a resolution was made that the two representatives from UTA to the UT System Faculty Advisory Council be selected from the Faculty Senate and are to consist of the Chair and the Vice Chair. A friendly amendment that it also be proposed at the same time as an addition to the Handbook of Operating Procedures was approved.

Special Projects: The Committee considered several candidates for Professor Emeritus. Four names were submitted to the President and the awards were presented at the April General Faculty Meeting.

Student Services: No Report

Research and Development: A draft of Faculty Development Leave Policy was presented. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to table the Draft. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None
NEW BUSINESS:

The Nominations Committee presented a slate of officers.
Chair Elect/Vice Chair: Rod Hissong and Laurie Porter. Rod Hissong was elected.
Secretary: Michael Moore
Parliamentarian: Mark Thompson. Laurie Porter and Bill Pinney were nominated from the floor. Laurie Porter was elected.
COFGO representative: Catheleen Jordan

The Senate passed a resolution thanking Thomas Hendrix and Associates for their help in administering the recent vote of confidence. A certificate of appreciation will be provided.

COFGO REPORT:

Senator Catheleen Jordan, representative to COFGO, reported on three presentations with a theme this year of Higher Education in Texas, 1995 to 2000.

A Campus Roundup from various faculty governance organizations and Faculty Senates in the UT system indicated that campuses are working on ways to increase faculty input, on program abandonment and review of programs, and on policies regarding the review of administrators. A discussion was held on the impacts of telecourse teaching.

Senator Moore presented a resolution regarding proceeds from the sale of surplus equipment. This is a request to the administration that of the proceeds from the sale of equipment would be credited to the department's financial accounts. Resolution passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice Provost Bernstein announced that at 4 P.M. Tuesday, April 25th he will be giving a talk in Psychology on admission standards data gathered regarding SAT.

Chinita Heard from the Committee on the Status of Women and Minorities handed out a directory Women and Minorities: Programs, Services and Resources. The committee recommends update on a regular basis and will meet with President Witt to determine the future of the committee. Linda Rouse, past president of the committee, asked for input and suggestions on items to be included in the handbook.

Senator Dunn asked the Senate to resolve a commendation of Chair Beehler and other members of the executive committee for the exemplary manner in which they have conducted their offices during this past year, a very difficult and turbulent year. The resolution passed.

Senator Hickey was commended for his recent honor on the national level for his forensics team.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Moore
Secretary