The Faculty Senate met in regular session Wednesday, January 31, 1996 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 Barrett (permanent substitute for Senator Birmingham of Social Work), Beehler, Bradshaw, Burquest, Wang substituting for Chan, Dunn, Eidelman, Ellwood, Fairbanks, Frye, Gaupp, Hamilton, Hart, Harvey, Herrmann, Hickey, Hissong, Jackson, Jones, Jordan, Korzeniowski, McDowell, McKinney, Moore, Payne, Pinney, Porter, Priest, Rodnitzky, Rutherford, Thompson, Walker, Weed, Wilmore, Yardley, and Zeidler. Senators Devarajan, Himarios, Jarboe, Manry, Matthys, Rajeshwar, and Weems were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 15, 1995 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR:

Chair Beehler began his remarks by congratulating Dr. George Wright on his appointment as Provost of UTA. He then reported on the UT System Faculty Advisory Council meeting of November 30-December 1 that he and Senator Hissong attended in Austin.

1. According to the Regents' Rules, faculty input is suggested but not required for the naming of university buildings.
2. Louis Watkins of the UT System reported on computer security and use policies. Two policies are being drafted, one on use and protection of information resources and one on information security standards. The Faculty Advisory Council will make sure that the policies are reasonable from a faculty standpoint. A useful book dealing with internet law is NetLaw published by McGraw-Hill.
3. Discussion continued on distance learning, exit interviews including reasons faculty left, and optional phased retirement.
4. Faculty members under investigation should receive ample warning of an institutional investigation as well as time to respond before termination proceedings begin.
5. Discussion was held on what should go into personnel files, transferring of faculty when transferring a program from one college to another, and a faculty conduct policy.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

Professor Keith McDowell, Chemistry, will chair the search committee for the Dean of Engineering.

The search for Vice President of Development is moving along. The advertisements will close toward the end of February, and finalists will be invited to the campus for interviews.

Due to the reaccreditation process going on at this time, the search for a Director of the Center for Professional Teacher Education will be delayed and Professor Mary Lynn Crow will continue as the interim leader of the Center.
The budget process will be demanding for all of us. Semester credit hours were down 5% in the Fall semester and are expected to be down about 7% this Spring. President Witt expects $1,000,000 less to spend this year than budgeted. Budget items are already committed and UTA will absorb the shortfall that cannot be recovered in other ways from operating reserves. We will need to take $1 million out of the budget that we had planned to use next year (the second year of the biennium), probably half from the nine academic units and half from all other locations in the university. Figures do not include any funds for faculty and staff merit raises. If merit raises of 2% are given, it will cost about $1,400,000. To recover that amount, more than 50% would have to come from the academic units. If we do not take that amount from next year's budget, that amount would also have to come from operating reserves. Our operating reserves are down to $4 million and it would be financially unhealthy to use them again next year.

Formal budget preparations will go out February 8 or 9, budget hearings with the Deans will be March 11-13, and hearings with the System will be March 18 in Austin. The question of equity in recapturing these dollars will be a challenge as to how to apportion the reduction among the academic units. It is important to keep momentum going. The way through this is not to eliminate things but to reduce and slow processes down. President Witt believes the enrollment situation will be stabilized and reversed in two to three years.

REMARKS BY THE PROVOST:

Interviews with the candidates for the Vice Provost for Computer Technology are now finished and the final decision should be made next week.

An internal conference on distance education was held last week. Professor Andy White, Physics, is spearheading a committee that will make recommendations as to UTA's direction in the field of distance learning.

Dr. Wright is happy to be the new Provost and looks forward to being a faculty member here in the future. He has received several compliments while serving as Interim Provost. He would like to continue the dialogue and sense of openness and will listen to criticisms as well.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST:

A question was asked concerning the impact of the new TCJC campus. It will open in the Fall with a few courses being offered this Summer. TCJC also predicts a decrease in Spring enrollment. President Witt met with C. A. Roberson, TCJC President and they want to work together on such things as recruiting and distance learning. On-site admissions and financial aid personnel will be coordinated.

An inquiry was made about intercollegiate athletics budget cutbacks. A task force of students, faculty, alumni, and community representatives, chaired by Senator Hissong, is taking a look at intercollegiate athletics and such things as what should be done and what the future of intercollegiate athletics should be at UTA. Intercollegiate athletics will bear its fair share of budget cuts. The budget was $3.4 million last year, $2.85 million this year and is expected to be $2.5 million next year.

One Senator mentioned the problem of transferring courses from TCJC such as Business Law and Cost Accounting that are the same as UTA courses but are freshman and sophomore level courses. President Witt responded that TCJC is aware of the problem.

A question was posed as to how Summer school figures into the budget for the next biennium. Witt replied that the base period for the next biennium begins this Summer, then uses Fall 1996 and Spring 1997. He would like to see a single budget but it must be planned properly. He stated that the Summer session looks in pretty good shape. Provost Wright added that Shirley Binder and her staff are working on larger classes and Summer admissions and that this is a very crucial Summer for UTA.
A final question was asked about cuts in Summer faculty salaries. President Witt replied that he does not anticipate any reduction in the rate of compensation for faculty during the Summer.

There being no objections, new business was moved ahead of the committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Duncan, Executive Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the UT System, talked about the Presidential Selection Process.

Duncan first presented some background on the reason for his visit. Dr. Witt was appointed Interim President of UTA in March of 1995 for a two year term. In the Fall, Duncan began receiving calls from UTA faculty and students concerning the process for making Witt the regular President. The Board of Regents had observed Witt when they met here in November. Vice-Chancellor Duncan spent January 11th here on campus visiting with various representatives from campus groups including students, staff council, Faculty Senate, academic deans and alumni. Support was 100% for Witt.

When a normal search is conducted the Board of Regents appoints a committee of students, faculty, alumni, and representatives of other institutions in the UT System which provides a slate of not less than 5 or more than 10 candidates. For a shorter search, the Board can present its own slate of candidates which is reviewed by the appointed committee. Last week the Board of Regents appointed a committee of two students, three faculty, two staff, the Alumni Association President, two community representatives, two Presidents from other UT System campuses, Chancellor Cunningham, and Vice Chancellor Duncan. The first committee meeting will be February 5th. The Board of Regents will meet on February 9th and again in May with possible phone meetings before that time.

Duncan urged the faculty as well as staff, students, alumni and community representatives to fax comments to him by fax at 512-499-4240 or by phone 512-499-4233. Duncan did discuss the situation with Witt who said he had developed a sense of commitment to UTA and with campus support he would be interested in the position.

Faculty representatives on the committee are Professors Beehler, Bing and Pape. Duncan was commended for his sensitivity and for his respect for the faculty shown by coming to the Faculty Senate.

The Vice-Chancellor left copies of the Regents' Rules concerning the presidential selection process, a list of the committee members, a list of criteria for evaluating credentials of Presidential candidates and comment sheets to be returned to him.

Senator Herrmann made a motion that the Faculty Senate request the Board of Regents to name Dr. Witt as regular President of UTA. The motion was seconded by Senator McDowell.

Some Senators expressed the feeling that they would like to talk with their departments before voting and some felt a little rushed.

A motion to table the original motion until the next meeting was made by Senator Pinney. The motion to table passed.

Chair Beehler urged the faculty senators to solicit input from their departments and to ask faculty to forward information to Duncan and the three faculty members on the committee.

It was pointed out that this is not a good time for a search. With decreased enrollment and the budgetary process, it would be good to have a President familiar with the UT System.
Senator Rodnitzky made the motion which was seconded that the Faculty Senate go on record as calling for an open search.

It was suggested that UTA should stay with what they have—someone with intelligence and sensitivity. UTA has had a chance to see how he handles adversity and pressure.

The question was called. A vote was taken by secret ballot and the motion calling for an open search failed 26 to 6.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Liaison Committee Chair Bradshaw presented the results of the adjunct faculty/GTA Teaching Evaluation questionnaire. President Witt had asked at the October meeting whether the academic units have formal faculty oversight for adjunct teaching faculty and whether procedures for evaluating new graduate teaching assistants are adequate. Bradshaw said there was nothing disturbing about the results and the committee was pleasantly surprised with both the number of responses and the data gathered. Most departments have procedures for orientation and evaluation of teaching performance for adjunct faculty and GTA's.

The Budget Liaison and Operating Procedures Committees are looking at procedures for mainstreaming administrators back into teaching and will be meeting next Wednesday.

The Ethics Committee is studying gender discrimination and harassment and how they are handled.

The Special Projects Committee has received several nominations for the title of Professor Emeritus.

Student Services Liaison Committee Committee Chair Jackson presented an assessment on the current implementation of the University's policies on adding and withdrawing from undergraduate courses. Concerning the four day add and six week automatic "W" drop period, the committee is concerned about discrepancies in enforcement and recommends that the Provost communicate to the Deans that the students should be informed as to the policies. The second issue concerns the extended twelve week drop period with "W" or "F" grade conferred by a student's professor depending upon that student's performance. There are a tremendous number of drops and data will not be available until April. Suggest keeping an eye on the withdrawal policy.

Research and Development Committee Chair Moore stated that members of the Faculty Senate will receive a draft of the Research and Development Policy before the next meeting to discuss with their departments.

The Equity Committee will be meeting today.

The Tenure and Academic Freedom and Responsibilities Committee is waiting for a draft of Promotion and Tenure guidelines from the Ad Hoc Committee appointed last year by the previous administration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Moore, Secretary