Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
University of Texas at Arlington
March 4, 1998

Attendance:

Call to Order:
Rod Hissong, Chair, called the meeting to order

Approval of Minutes:
The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the January 28, 1998 Faculty Senate meeting. The minutes were approved.

Comments by the Chair:
Chair Hissong announced that the President had made the teaching workload data available. Members of the Executive Committee of the Senate are working hard to prepare the data for an April 22 report.

Senator Brooks Ellwood will chair the Nominations Committee for next year’s officers. Senators Ken Roemer, Harriet Amster, and Elise Bright have agreed to serve on the committee. They will assemble a slate of candidates for Parliamentarian, Secretary, and Texas Association of Faculty Senates Representative for the 1998-1999 academic year. People interested in serving in one of these positions should please contact one of these committee members.

Donna Darovich of Public Affairs circulated a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in “UTA Today,” a daily e-mail transmission from the University’s Public Affairs Office. It includes press releases being sent to the news media, a calendar of campus events each day, information regarding faculty who have been quoted and/or interviewed by the national news media, as well as special commentaries by the President and the Provost on important campus issues.

Chair Hissong noted that the Provost was unable to attend the meeting today.

Remarks by the President:
President Witt discussed the endorsements given to each of the three doctoral programs in Liberal Arts. He stated that he feels confident that we will receive positive recommendations from the Coordinating Board and staff for approval of the programs. Several members of the Coordinating Board will soon be on campus to meet with faculty and graduate students in each of the
three areas. The Board will be voting in late April on final approval of those programs.

President Witt discussed an earlier announcement regarding a student referendum on the establishment of an Intercollegiate Athletics fee to take effect September 1999. This fee will replace the contribution from the Administration and some contributions from student service fees. The Administration will reallocate its contribution toward academic initiatives, improving labs, upgrading classrooms, and strengthening our advising program. The exact amount of the Intercollegiate Athletic fee has not yet been determined. Information is being assembled to give students an idea of the current budget, the source of funds, and how funds are expended, as well as what the best estimates for the Fall 1999 budget. If students endorse the Intercollegiate Athletics fee, and both the Chancellor and state legislature approve it, the current student services fee in the fall of 1999 will decline by an appropriate amount. This amount has not yet been identified.

Questions for the President:
Senator Rodnitzky asked if a national search for the new Dean of Liberal Arts was under consideration. President Witt responded that no decision had been made on that yet. It is an option that is being considered. Qualified candidates currently on campus will also be considered.

Senator Matthys asked if a timetable had been established for Post-Tenure Review, which is scheduled to begin in 1999. President Witt stated that there was a six-month advance notice period and that an initial group had been selected. He added that a timetable had been set for the submission of materials in the near future.

Senator Kellner asked for clarification regarding the proposal of Intercollegiate Athletic fees and if a corresponding reduction of other student fees could result. President Witt responded that if a stand-alone student Intercollegiate Athletic fee is adopted, then the current amount provided by the student service fee could be used in other ways or reduced.

Guest speaker:
Tom Wilding, Director of Library Services, presented information regarding the services provided by the library. Key topics included: the development of information resources and services for all users regardless of location; techniques and technological ways to provide this; areas in which to concentrate such as infrastructure (networks, hardware, content, services); problems involved in moving to technological/electronics-based structures; spacing and storage requirements; the focus on content (i.e., book budget, electronic resources and determination of which should be digital or print; acquisition of journals and other important additions); and provision of services that will best meet the needs of students, both on and off campus.

During open discussion, it was also noted that to request materials that have been placed in storage may take up to 48 hours to receive, depending upon storage location. Further discussion revealed that current shelving facilities were approximately 85 percent full and that the library has only enough shelf
space to last into 1999. The senators also discussed with Mr. Wilding issues regarding archival capabilities, technology developments for potential usage of compact discs (CDs), and student learning needs. Senator Kellner suggested the development of an e-mail newsletter regarding library issues and concerns.

Committee Report:
Senator Crowder presented the Tenure and Academic Freedom Responsibilities Committee Report. He provided a handout that compared the new, recommended changes to the old wording. The senate voted to accept the committee's report with minor revisions.

Old Business:
Senator Matthys asked if the Minimum Performance Guidelines had been circulated. Chair Hissong answered affirmatively.

New Business:
No new business was discussed.

Announcements:
Chair Hissong informed the Faculty Senate regarding the absence of T. J. Barber, who was attending the Louisiana post season basketball tournament.

It was also announced that on April 22nd, the Undergraduate Research Symposium would be held.

Adjournment:
A motion was made for adjournment. The motion carried. The senate adjourned until April 22nd.