Call to Order

This is the 1st meeting of the 20th Session of the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University was called to order, Speaker Robert Strawser, presiding, Senator Marty Louder, secretary.

Speaker Comments

The following newly elected senators were sworn in:

William Moyer, Linda Parrish, Paul Parrish, Brett Peters, Doug Slack

Senators congratulated Senator Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni on being selected to receive the 2002 Distinguished Alumna award from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Texas Medical Branch. In a letter to Tiffany-Castiglioni, it was noted that “This is the highest award presented to a graduate and one that recognizes your superior achievement and dedication as a research scientist, teacher and administrator.” Evelyn is professor and head of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Public Health, and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Report on Executive Committee Retreat

Items discussed at the Retreat were:

Standing Committees need to meet soon and elect chairs. Standing Committees will be requested to give status reports on committee charges at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

The Executive Committee will be inviting legislative representatives, University administrators, and Board of Regents to meet with the committee.

Priority goals were established from suggestions submitted by Senators. I want to thank all the Senators who participated in this activity. The top four goals were:

- Recruitment of graduate students
- Recruitment and retention of faculty
- Academic integrity
- Increased faculty participation in governance

Handouts for the meeting were:

- Speaker Informational Sheet
- Updated Attachments A, B, D, E, F–Attachment F is an added agenda item
Speaker Strawser announced that visitor seating has been provided at the back of the room for their convenience while attending Senate meetings. Any visitor wishing to address the Senate body must first be recognized by the Speaker or may have one of the Senators make the request to the Speaker.

Faculty Senators were requested to use one of the microphones and state their name when addressing the body so their remarks can be heard and recorded. Motions should be written on the forms provided on each table. Senators were reminded to pick up their name tags since this is used to record attendance. When Faculty Senators are attending Senate and committee meetings, the Senate Office can validate parking.

Speaker Strawser spoke on the opportunity Senators will have on impacting faculty governance with the new President. The Speaker met with President Gates last week and felt he really will seek the Senate’s input.

Former Speaker Mark Weichold gave an update on the Team Blinn program. The success rate has been good. Students are performing at the same or better level than regular freshmen students.

Approval of May 8, 2002 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

The May 8, 2002 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved as distributed. **FS.20.01**

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

**Executive Committee**

Standing Committee Appointments. **FS.20.02**

Reports from Standing Committees

Core Curriculum Council

Secretary Loudder moved approval of the Core Curriculum Council agenda item to add courses to the Core Curriculum. Motion passed. **FS.20.03**

Additions to the Core Curriculum

- Addition to Computer Usage Courses, MEEN 357
- Addition to Humanities, AMST 300 & AMST 320
- Addition to Social & Behavioral Sciences & International and Cultural Diversity, INST 210

Executive Committee

Secretary Loudder moved approval of the Executive Committee agenda item, Resolution on Academic Misconduct.

Senator Halter moved to substitute the revised copy of the resolution distributed at the meeting in place of the copy mailed earlier with the agenda. Motion passed. **FS.20.04**. Senator Glover moved to amend the resolution as follows: insert 'and conduct' in the first paragraph after the words ‘professional integrity’, and insert ‘act of grave academic misconduct’ in place of ‘egregious violation of academic integrity’ in the second paragraph. Amendment passed. **FS.20.05**. Senator Bies moved an amendment to delete the words ‘without that person’s knowledge or consent’ in the second paragraph. Senator Hall disagreed and thought the wording was necessary and that the original version is best. Senator Smith suggested keeping the original version, stating that specification of state of mind of the appropriation is important. Amendment failed. Senator Boothe moved an amendment to add the word ‘this’ to the last paragraph after the word ‘grave’. Amendment failed.
The amended resolution passed.  **FS.20.06**

**Resolution on Academic Misconduct**

Whereas, The Faculty of Texas A&M University in College Station holds itself to the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and conduct in all academic matters;

Whereas, The Faculty of Texas A&M University in College Station considers the intentional appropriation of another’s intellectual property without that person’s knowledge or consent to be an act of grave academic misconduct; and

Whereas, The consequences of academic misconduct should not be mitigated by one’s rank in the University or stature in the academy; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Texas A&M University Faculty Senate in College Station reaffirms that any member of the academy who commits grave academic misconduct should not continue as a member of the academy.

**Executive Committee**

Secretary Louder moved approval of the Executive Committee agenda item, Resolution Supporting the Board of Regents.  Motion passed.  **FS.20.07**

**Resolution in Support of Presidential Search Advisory Committee**

Whereas, The Faculty of Texas A&M University in College Station holds itself, the students, staff, and administrators to the highest standards of performance;

Whereas, The Faculty of Texas A&M University in College Station considers the selection process and the selection of the University Presidential candidates to be of critical importance with regard to the history and the future of Texas A&M University; and

Whereas, The Faculty of Texas A&M University in College Station considers the role of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System to be an essential element for the growth, maturation, and success of the academic, research, and extension programs within the University; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M University in College Station recognizes the contribution of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and expresses its sincerest appreciation for the labor and collegiality provided by the Advisory Committee, be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M University in College Station expresses its deepest gratitude to the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System for its considerable care and effort in its deliberations in the Presidential selection process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M University in College Station supports and welcomes Dr. Robert M. Gates as the 22th President of Texas A&M University.  In particular, the Faculty Senate pledges its service and its commitment of energy and enthusiasm for the mission of preeminence that Texas A&M University continues to pursue.

**Academic Affairs Committee**

Senator Blasingame moved for the Senate to vote on the Graduate Council’s proposal to eliminate the Graduate Council Representative (GCR) on doctoral student advisory committees. The Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) was split on the issue and pros and cons were noted in Attachment F.

Discussions:  Senator Blasingame—very important decision pertaining to research and graduate studies at the doctoral level, structurally significant.;  Senator Hobbs—in favor of keeping GCR;  Senator Hall—in favor of eliminating GCR;  Senator Smith—retain GCR, duties of GCR are not onerous and are a small demand on the faculty member’s time, role of GCR should be strengthened;  Senator Greenwald—agree with Senator Smith, departments do not give PhDs, the university does, symbolism important.

Dr. James Holste, a member of the Graduate Council, spoke in favor of the proposal: The issue has been thoroughly hashed by the departments; all members of the Graduate Council except 1 voted for
elimination; authority of academic integrity lies in the colleges, not the Office of Graduate Studies; attendance at doctoral hearings is a problem; verbal abuse by faculty to Graduate Studies staff is tremendous; Graduate Council does not have authority to enforce academic excellence. Senator Jordan spoke in agreement with Dr. Holste: issue has been considered by a large amount of faculty before the Graduate Council made the proposal; task of finding a GCR during the summer is horrendous; faculty are responsible for academic integrity; not Office of Graduate Studies or the college.

Senator Woosley moved to call the question. Motion to vote passed. **FS.20.08** Vote on motion to eliminate the position of the Graduate Council Representative (GCR) for PhD advisory committees. A vote of yes would eliminate the GCR position, and a vote of no would keep the GCR position. Hand count vote was taken: Out of the 48 recorded present Senators, the votes were: YES=20; NO=24. Motion to eliminate GCR on PhD committees failed.

**New Business**

There were no questions for Provost Douglas or Dean of Faculties Watson.

**Committee of the Whole**

Deputy Speaker Halter led the Senate into Committee of the Whole. He reported that the Executive Committee has submitted the following committee charges:

- **Academic Affairs and Core Curriculum Council** - Determining a method to allow both 485 and 489 courses to be used in the core curriculum.
- **Planning Committee** - Assess and make recommendations (as necessary) to the complaint that people who have paid for (Koldus) garage parking may lose their parking places on some football game days.
- **Graduate Council** - Investigate and make recommendations (as necessary) regarding concerns that the “14 Week Rule” [between filing a proposal and the final defense of a dissertation] may not adequately meet the needs of all departments.

**New Business**

Senator Greenwald raised issue of concern from Personnel & Welfare Committee—increases in premiums for benefits during the next few years and the addition of an administrative charge (dubbed the stealth fee) of $1.75/month to subsidize System Human Resources Office; the stealth fee may open flood gates we do not want opened. Suggested that Personnel & Welfare draft a resolution that all future fees and fee increases affecting faculty and staff need to be run by the Senate with a rationale. Senator Fike stressed that TAMU’s Human Resources is not part of the stealth fee; Steve Hassell with the System Human Resources Office met with the Executive Committee and presented reasons for the increases and the additional administrative fee (UT does it).

Senator Hobbs suggested that the Executive Committee should assign an Academic Affairs Committee representative to look into the problems associated with the GCR since the Faculty Senate voted to keep the GCR.

Senator Smith discussed the large earthen berm that is being constructed around the storm water retention pool on the Polo Field. It appears to be encroaching on the site of the 1999 Bonfire collapse and would like the Executive Committee to ask the Planning Committee to look into this. Specifically, he would like the Planning Committee to ensure that either (a) the site of the 1999 Bonfire is not going to be buried under the earthen berm, or that (b) all interested parties (students, families of victims) have been informed of the intention to bury the site, and that most or all of them are willing that this should happen.

**Adjourn**
The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.