FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Minutes
November 13, 2006


Watson (Dean of Faculties)
Bazzi, Thornton (Qatar Senators)

Absent: Aufderheide, Bangerth, Bekso, Blasingame, Boyd, Cepeda-Benito, Centinkaya, Curry, Fink, Harris, Heilman, Ing, Kelly, Klein, La-Pastina, Luiselli, McIntyre, Moreira, Petersen, Shandley, Smith, Stallone, Toliat, Valasek, Vedlitz

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 3:20 by speaker Slack

Guest Speaker Dr. Mark Weichold, Dean of Undergraduate Programs & Associate Provost for Academic Services gave a summary of data for the 45,000 student body that is 80% UG and 20% GS, and of the latest freshman class (2005) for which data have been assimilated. The new class is essentially even in sex distribution, includes 18% minorities, has an average SAT score >1,200, includes ≈ 600 National Merit Scholars and 26-28% are first-generation college students. Average class size for freshmen is 41.5 and drops somewhat for upper division students. The current FTE faculty to student ratio is 20:1 using state definitions or 18.3: 1 under coordinating board guidelines.

Dr. Weichold also indicated that 60-80 classes per year are turned in as “small classes” under state guidelines that permit classes with less than 10 UG or 5 GS to be taught. Exceptions most often are granted for 1) courses required for graduation or program scheduling, 2) new degree programs, 3) first time offered, 4) (un)availability of laboratory space, but there are also 7 other state-permitted justifications. He also noted that in stacked courses (both UG and Grad students enrolled with extra work required for Graduate level credit), graduate students count as 2 students to meet the requirement. Mark also gave a summary of the formula by which state funding is allocated based on weighted semester credit hours. Distribution of the “level of instruction” is shown in the table below adapted from his talk:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Prof</th>
<th>Assoc Prof</th>
<th>Asst Prof</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Visiting</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>GAT-Lab</th>
<th>GAT-Lect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCH</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSCH</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
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After describing the various programs that fall under the purview of his Office, Dr. Weichold also addressed problems that need attention, including affordability (the average graduate has $18-20,000 debt accrued from the cost of education), institution of the newly approved University
Studies degree and enrollment management. Also, although TAMU already has the highest retention rate in the State, improving retention rates for minority students is a priority.

TAMU President Dr. Robert Gates, who has been nominated to serve as Secretary of Defense at the national level was presented a framed copy of the following resolution on behalf of the Senate:

Whereas President Robert M. (Bob) Gates has served with great distinction as the 22\textsuperscript{nd} President of Texas A\&M;

Whereas he has done more than any other President of Texas A\&M to further the cause of shared governance and to fully involve the faculty in decision making at all levels;

Whereas he is the first President to articulate an administrative credo that recognizes the pre-eminent importance of the faculty to the academy;

Whereas he has elevated the importance of the faculty at commencement and convocation;

Whereas he has embraced the collective wisdom embodied in Vision 2020;

Whereas he has initiated irrevocable initiatives in faculty re-investment, diversity, infrastructure, and graduate and undergraduate education; and

Whereas he has raised the stature of Texas A\&M to national pre-eminence; therefore be it

Resolved that the Faculty Senate thanks Bob Gates for all that he has done at Texas A\&M;

Resolved further that the Faculty Senate is sorry to see him depart before his job here is completed to his satisfaction;

Resolved further that the Faculty Senate sends Bob Gates to Washington, D.C. with our best wishes for his future and the future of our country;

Resolved further that the Faculty Senate believes Bob Gates is the best man to honorably resolve the situation in Iraq;

Resolved further that the Faculty Senate will welcome him back to Aggieland once his task in Government is completed; and

Resolved finally that the Faculty Senate hopes that, as Secretary of Defense, he will insist that the various military bands he now controls learn how to play the Aggie War Hymn and the Patton March while marching to form the block T.

Presented this day, Monday, 13 November 2006, by the Faculty Senate of Texas A\&M University.
**Speaker Comments:** In wake of the release of a student generated video made available on the World Wide Web, the speaker asked Senators to support efforts to make TAMU a more welcoming institution for all by helping to identify steps or methods to curtail acts of racism and discrimination. Speaker Slack delivered the following statement:

*The recent disclosure of a video depicting obvious racism and pornography associated with Texas Aggie students has torn at the very fabric of the University. Clearly, this video is harmful and hurtful to the campus community. We can no longer sit quietly and condone an environment where individuals, Aggies, faculty, and staff feel that acts of overt discrimination will be tolerated. Indeed the continuation of such behavior puts into question the very essence of the Aggie spirit. Remember, silence is consent.*

At a minimum, I call on all faculty members, staff, and students to no longer look the other way when examples of discrimination and non-acceptance occur, regardless of the severity of the forms of discrimination. We must all step forward and say in the most emphatic way, “stop!” Whether it is an unfortunate comment in class, a racial slur at a drinking fountain, or a laugh at a video “joke” received on a computer terminal, all are unacceptable. We have an obligation to our campus, to our students, and to the people of Texas to make this campus a truly welcoming environment.

Our acceptance of fellow Aggies, staff, and faculty must be unconditional. To this end “Welcome to Aggieland” must be more than a sign on water tower and in Kyle Field. Until we can stand up for all of our brothers and sisters, shoulder to shoulder, with pride and acceptance regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, and physical disabilities, we will not be worthy of the bravery represented by the efforts and sacrifices of the Aggie medal of honor winners whose memorial plaques are displayed in the Memorial Student Center.

I can assure the campus community that the Faculty Senate will work in concert with Vice President Tito Guerrero, Student Government leaders, minority faculty members, and the Dean of Faculties to identify concrete steps that can be taken to curtail and hopefully eliminate the divisive influence of racism and other forms of discrimination on our campus and the local community.

Rabinarayan Mahapatra (ENG) was installed as a Faculty Senator

**Minutes of the October 9 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed and are available on the Senate Web site.** Motion Passed F.S. 24.35 Attachment A

**Consent Agenda**

**Executive Committee** (Recommended Approval)

Ratification of candidates for degrees conferred December 15-16, 2006 Motion Passed F.S. 24.36 Attachment B

**Graduate Council** (Recommended Approval) Motion Passed F.S. 24.37 Attachment C

New Courses-Oct 5, 2006

ANSC 687  Sensory Evaluation of Foods
CPSC 656  Computers and New Media
ELEN 617  Advanced Signal processing for Medical Imaging
ELEN 695  Introduction to Micro electromechanical Devices and Systems
ENTO 602  Insect Biodiversity and Biology
KINE 613  Diversity in Sport Organizations
RLEM 620  Ecological Restoration of Wetland and Riparian Systems
University Curriculum Committee (Recommended Approval)  
Motion Passed F.S. 24.38  
Attachment D

Change in Courses

KNFB 450 Supervised Student Teaching (from 36 contact hours for 9 credits to 30 hours for 6 credits)

College of Liberal Arts

Department of European and Classical Languages and Cultures

MODL course prefix to EURO.

Course prefix change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>To:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MODL 220.</td>
<td>EURO 220. Contemporary French Culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODL 223.</td>
<td>EURO 223. French Culture and Society in French Literary Masterpieces in Translation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODL 230.</td>
<td>EURO 230. Contemporary German Culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODL 232.</td>
<td>EURO 232. Exploratory German Language and Culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODL 240.</td>
<td>EURO 240. Contemporary Russian Culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODL 323.</td>
<td>EURO 323. Immigration and Ethnicity in Contemporary France.</td>
</tr>
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Withdrawal of Courses

MODL 341. Russia’s Artistic Heritage.

Senator Stadelmann requested that HLTH 659 “Writing for Health Educators” be removed from the consent agenda. Dr. Christoph Konrad requested that MODL 337. “Russian Drama” be removed from the list of courses to be withdrawn. The remainder of the consent agenda passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Reports (all moved for approval by the Secretary of the Senate)

Motion Passed F.S. 24.39  
Attachment E

Executive Committee (Recommended Approval)

Core Curriculum Council

Approve use of 285, 291, 485, 484 and 491 courses conducted abroad to count towards the 6 SCH of International and Cultural Diversity category in the TAMU Core Curriculum.

Approve the following additions to the TAMU Core Curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRO 489</td>
<td>Brazilian Agriculture and Food Production Systems (International and Cultural Diversity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSN 289</td>
<td>Introduction to the Economic, Geopolitical and Cultural Dimensions of Global Business (International and Cultural Diversity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCED 301</td>
<td>Dance History (Humanities)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HISP 489  Staging Hispanic Theater (Visual and Performing Arts)
WMST200  Introduction to Women’s Studies (International and Cultural Diversity)
WMST 391  Studies in Gender and Diversity (International and Cultural Diversity)

Senator Gunn, Chair of the Core Curriculum Council asked that the name of the AGRO 489 course be changed to *Brazilian Agriculture and Food Production Systems*, which was accepted without vote as an editorial change. He also asked that at the request of the History Department, HIST 489 *History of American Businesswomen* be removed from the list. The remaining items were approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of courses recommended to fulfill the writing requirement (W courses) 

*Motion Passed F.S. 24.40*  
CPSC 289  Introduction to Computing  
KINE 198  Health and Fitness  
KINE 482  Seminar in Sport Management Research

Dr. Gunn requested clarification on how KINE 198 could be a writing course when it is primarily involved in physical activity. Senator Grant (EDUC) called on Beth Netherland, the course teacher who explained that one of the two weekly sessions deals with issues affecting wellness and behavior, with numerous writing assignments. She also indicated that the Writing Center indicated the course meets requirements for designation as a W course. Senator Louder questioned how a 1 credit course could satisfy one of the two W course requirements since in 3 credit courses, at least 1 of the hours should be devoted to writing. Dr. Neatherland indicated that this is a W course only for Kinesiology students and that since 80% of the grade is derived from the writing assignments, it does meet the standard for W classification. Senator Tom Vogel stated that the only real requirement for W designation is that 30% of the grade comes from graded writing assignments.

The W courses were approved by voice vote with no dissent.

*Graduate Council* (Recommended Approval)  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
Department of Animal Sciences  
Implement a Graduate Certificate in Meat Science  

*Motion Passed F.S. 24.41*  

The *Graduate Council:*  

*Motion Passed F.S. 24.42*  

recommended a change in the University rule requiring the use of standardized tests for admission to graduate studies. The change will allow departments or programs to set the requirements and will allow waivers when appropriate which could not be done under SACS regulations so long as the rule was in force at the University level. The change in the requirements for admission to Graduate Student status at TAMU is shown below:
FROM:
GRE, MAT or GMAT scores (evaluated in a manner which complies with Chapter 51, Subchapter W of the Texas Education Code, Admissions and Scholarship Policies for Graduate and Professional Programs, House Bill 1641) is required.

TO:
An official score on a standardized test is required unless otherwise specified by the graduate program to which a student is applying. A program can request exceptions to the Office of Graduate Studies. The scores are evaluated in a manner which complies with Chapter 51, Subchapter W of the Texas Education Code, Admissions and Scholarship policies for Graduate and Professional Programs, House Bill 1641.

The motion was approved unanimously

Texas A&M University Galveston (Recommended Approval)  
Department of Marine Biology establish a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy Interdisciplinary Degree Program in Marine Biology (MB IDP)  
Senator Stadelmann stated that he favored passage because the proposal was well prepared, well documented and included ethics as a component.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Following are a series of requests to reduce curricula to meet the maximum 120 SCH requirement, as requested by the Texas Legislature in its last session.

University Curriculum Committee (Recommended Approval)
Changes in Curriculum

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Department of Nutrition and Food Services  
B.S. in Food Science and Technology  
Food Science Option  
Industry Option

B.S. in Nutritional Sciences  
Dietetics Track  
Molecular and Experimental Track  
General Nutrition Track

Department of Horticultural Sciences  
B.A. in Horticulture  
B.S. in Horticulture  
B.S. in Floriculture

College of Education and Human Development  
Department of Health and Kinesiology  
Basic Exercise Physiology Track  
Applied Exercise Physiology Track  
Motor Behavior Track  
All Level Physical Education Teacher Certification Option

All were approved without dissent.
University Curriculum Committee (Recommended Approval)  Motion Passed F.S. 24.48
Special Consideration: New Certificates  Attachment N
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Department of Biomedical Science
International Certificate Program in Cultural Competency and Communication in Spanish

Motion approved by unanimous vote

Graduate Council (Recommended Approval)  Motion Passed F.S. 24.49
Intercollegiate Faculty of Agribusiness  Attachment O
Ph.D. in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics
Approved unanimously

Old Business

Senator Stadlemann explained that the course description for HLTH 659 Writing for Health Educators included either typographical errors or incorrect punctuation and that it included "advertising" statements that are not supposed to be a part of a course description. He requested that it be returned to the Graduate Council to be revised to meet University Catalog standards. Senator Woosley, a member of the submitting college reported that the description was not that intended for the course, but in fact included parts of inter-departmental memos and asked that the course be returned with the correct description directly to the EC for inclusion in the December meeting. The substitution of EC for GC in the original motion was agreed to and the motion then passed without dissent.

Dr. Konrad explained that there was never an intention to withdraw MODL 337, Russian Drama, as a course but that it may be renamed in the future. The vote to remove the course from the list of courses to be removed was unanimous.

New Business

Committee of the Whole

Senator Feldman requested that at least substantive issues and outcomes be included in the minutes since referral to attachments that cannot be obtained later may make decisions described in the minutes almost meaningless.

Senator Vogel, Chair of the UCC indicated that the AOC deans are concerned with Senate decisions such as the institution of the University Studies Degree that they are then required to implement, having had no input into the decision process. They have suggested that it would be helpful if joint Senate and AOC committees can be established earlier in the process.

Senator Vogel indicated that a proposal for considering +/- grading will be presented to the Senate in December and passed out a draft of the proposed grading system which has A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B-=2.7, C+=2.3, C=2.0, C-=1.7, D=1.0 and F=0.

Senator Carlson questioned the current status of the Dean and Department Head hiring and retention rules that the Senate passed last month. Dr. Slack indicated that the Deans still object to the reporting of vote tallies back to the faculty involved, and Dr. Watson indicated that some Deans also objected to the provision that allows the search committee to cull prospects found acceptable to the faculty from the list that goes forward. She indicated there is also a potential
problem in the wording that could leave upper administration out of the decision on hiring a department head.

Senator Carlson also indicated that there is still a move to contract computer purchases and that any plan that would prevent individual faculty from making decisions on computer purchases should be vigorously resisted by the Senate.

Senator Strawser asked that the Senate EC consider making the week of Thanksgiving a vacation and eliminating the use of “redefined days”.

Senator Stedelmann suggested the University should hire a professional Parliamentarian to assist groups at all levels in the University in writing proper rules, regulations and minutes!

**Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.