I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cameron University Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Chair Jim Lambert called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in Howell Hall, Room 106.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Lambert, John Bachelor, Linda Wright-Smith, Jason Duan, Sylvia Miller, Lori Sawyer for Sherry Reynolds, Sue Fuson, Joe Jones, Antonio Laverghetta, James Heflin, Mike Davis, John Hodgson, Douglas Catterall, Suzanne Crawford, John Moots, Phil Schroeder, Gabriella Adam-Rodwell, Chao Zhao, Sharon Christensen, Major Armstrong, Jr., Abbas Johari, Ted Snider, Mary Penick, Jeanne Gaunce

Absent: Phil Adrian, Edna McMillan, Harrison Watts, David Fennema, Todd Raborn

Guest: V.P. Gary Buckley

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Heflin moved to approve the Faculty Senate minutes from Feb 1, 2006, with amendments, and Christiansen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. The amended changes are as follows: Add the following underlined words to VII F: he would look into the remedies. Also, change “Longe” to “Long” in VII D.

IV. REMARKS FROM OFFICERS

Chair Lambert reminded the Senate members of the next Tuesday’s (March 7) general Faculty and Staff Meeting being held by President Ross. The focus of the meeting will be mainly on the Centennial observances, updates on the construction projects, and the status of legislative issues on higher education.

Chair-Elect John Bachelor reported on the Student Government proposed changes to the Student Handbook as it relates to punishment for infractions of the student integrity policy. He read section 4.08 from the Student Handbook.

4.08 PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

In addition to the penalties specified in section 3.03 of this code, a student who is found guilty of an act of academic dishonesty may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions:
a. The student may be required to perform additional academic work/project not required of other students in the course;
b. The student may be required to withdraw from the course with a grade of "W" or "F"; or
c. The student's grade in the course or on the examination or other academic work affected by the dishonesty may be reduced to any extent, including a reduction to failure

The student government feels that these penalties for infractions of the Academic Dishonesty policy are too weak. They want to stiffen the penalties. It is felt that the policy will affect how the majority of the students act. They formed a revised policy that would create a record of student infractions to include a suspension of up to 16 weeks for a second infraction and a permanent record of the infraction would appear on their transcript.

Buckley was not sure if such a policy would be accepted by the regents. He has to check on that. Bachelor noted that the highest rate of policy acceptance is when the students are involved in the policy-making process. The students themselves are asking for a two-strike policy and then a permanent record of the infraction.

Heflin stated that he was concerned about the privacy rights of students which could be violated if this was put on their record. It would follow them around like a prison record for the rest of their life.

Bachelor noted that the administration will be the determining body; he is just informing the Faculty Senate of what the Student Government came up with. Snider noted that there was no way to know about the reduction in grade if the student did not appeal it. If they do not appeal a lower grade, the faculty at large would not know that a student had a first strike. Bachelor stated that there would have to be a faculty report every time a faculty member lowered a grade because a student violated the Academic Integrity Policy. The proposed student government change is a work in process and the Senate will get another report when the administration gets done with it.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Bachelor motioned to bring to the floor for discussion of the proposal to add "in addition to his or her other duties, the Chair-Elect will serve as a liaison to the Supplemental Faculty and is responsible for articulating their concerns." Snider moved to accept the motion and Johari seconded the motion. The Senate voted on the motion. There was one yes vote and eighteen no votes. The motion was not approved.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

John Bachelor presented proposed changes by the Faculty Committee concerning the amendment relating to Chapter 4.5.1 (Periods of Appointment and Tenure) in the Faculty Handbook which was referred to them by the Fringe Benefits Committee during the last meeting.
The proposed amendment states that, “At the written request of the faculty member with approval of the appropriate chair, dean, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, a tenure-track faculty member may be granted an extension of the probationary period because of circumstances such as family or personal crisis.” There was some concern that the particulars of a faculty member having a baby had been deleted from the version provided by the Faculty Committee. It was determined that a normal pregnancy and birth did not automatically necessitate an extension of the tenure time. However, the wording would be more flexible in meeting the needs of emergencies arising from childbirth and other family crises. Additionally, it was not necessary to add the word “not on a leave of absence” because a person on a leave of absence is automatically given an extension for that time period.

This Faculty Committee’s amendment reflects the current OU policy as well.

Snyder motioned to consider and then vote on this amendment to section 4.5.1 at the next meeting. It was seconded by Heflin. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was noted that changes to the Faculty Handbook is the result of two years of work by the Faculty Committee and Dr. Buckley’s office. Except for four words in red to reflect a change, the changes are reflected by being underlined in the text given to Senate members. Heflin moved to discuss the Faculty Committee revisions for Chapters 1, 2, 3 at the next Faculty Senate Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Academic Standards and Policies Committee met. Hodgson reported that Janda said that if we use the universal forms for evaluation during the beta testing, those departments will not be obligated to use other forms.

Lectures and Concerts Committee will meet this month.

Research Committee met but the minutes have not been processed.

Crawford reported that the Curriculum Committee met and approved changes requested by the Criminal Justice Department.

Wright-Smith reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee met. They have checked to determine the plan for putting in wireless internet campus wide. We also discussed the crash of the e-mail system and what can be done in event it happens again. We provided the library with a digital copy of the Master Plan and all members will be getting a copy of the Master Plan before the next meeting. Wright-Smith met with Dr. Young at the library prior to their meeting. As a result of this meeting, Debbie Nelson is now a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee.
Heflin motioned to adjourn the meeting and Johari seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting is April 5th. Everyone should visit with their constituency to discuss the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook to enlighten our discussion at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wright-Smith
Faculty Senate Secretary