I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cameron University Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, Nov 9, 2005. 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, Sherry Reynolds, Jason Duan, Sherry Reynolds, Sue Fuson, Joe Jones, Antonio Laverghetta, Edna McMillan, James Heflin, Harrison Watts, Mike Davis, John Hodgson, Doug Catterall, Suzanne Crawford, John Moots, Phil Schroeder, Chao Zhao, Major Armstrong, Jr., Abbas Johari, Ted Snider, Todd Raborn, Jeanne Gaunce

Absent: Sylvia Miller, Phil Adrian, David Fennema, Gabriella Adam-Rodwell, Sharon Christensen, Mary Penick

Guest: V.P. Buckley

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Raborn moved to approve the Oct minutes and Hodgson seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

IV. REMARK FROM OFFICERS

Lambert handed out the Academic Integrity Statement approved by the Faculty Senate two years ago but never acted on by administration. Many students seem to think that Cameron is an easy place to get away with plagiarism. The student handbook’s list of penalties for academic dishonesty (4.08) is weak. Accordingly, we need to put some teeth into it so that the faculty handbook and student academic handbook reflect policy stated in each document and put more teeth in the penalty phase. The first step is to make sure the student code is parallel to our Academic Integrity Statement. Lambert motioned a resolution to reaffirm the Academic Integrity Statement that the Faculty Senate passed two years ago. The motion was seconded by Hodgson and was approved unanimously.

John Bachelor reported the main facts presented at the annual Faculty Advisory Council to the State Board of Higher Regents meeting in OKC the 5th of November. He handed out the four slides from the meeting showing the cost of living, cost of public higher education averages, and educational appropriations in fiscal year 2004. At the per student level the deficit in Oklahoma compared to the national average is $1,212 which totals out to a $161 million dollar deficit in
Oklahoma education. The Regents are going to try to correct this within a two-year timeframe.

There were two major issues left over from last year: Remediation of students and academic integrity. At the eighth grade level Oklahoma students meet the average nationally, but their academic readiness drops significantly when they are ready to graduate in the twelfth grade. The No Child Left Behind Act has created a watered down system to prevent loss of funding. Academic integrity studies show that 15% of college students will cheat no matter what penalties are in place. Another 15% will not cheat which leaves 70% of college students who will be influenced by the academic integrity policy of the school they attend. Having students and faculty involved in writing the academic integrity policy helps make it a success.

The major concerns expressed included: 1) overly dependency on adjunct professors 2) college readiness of graduating high school students 3) academic readiness 4) salaries 5) the stability of the teachers retirement system.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Wright-Smith reported on the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee meeting which included defining the purpose of the committee. This purpose being to advise the athletic director and promote intercollegiate sports. Questions they are addressing include how we can encourage people to go to the games and how we can provide positive and timely exposure for intramural sports.

Wright-Smith reported on the Long-Range Planning Committee meeting. The status of the Graduate School and the problem of too many graduate classes being taught by adjuncts have been major talking points. They are also working on updating the Plan 2008 looking forward to the 2010 NCA accreditation. They are also going to go over the Master Plan when a copy of the plan becomes available.

V.P. Buckley noted that they are trying to look at models used by regional universities with a coordinator at the top for a central office point. We are also re-assembling the President’s Planning Committee.

John Bachelor reported on the Faculty Committee meetings which take place every other week. They are working diligently and plan to have something for the Senate early in the spring semester.

The Fringe Benefits and Retirement Committee has an activity tomorrow and Wright-Smith will send out the information e-mailed earlier in the week by Miller as a final reminder about the meeting with Mr. Brian Smith of the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System.
Davis presented a report from the Academic Standards and Policies committee. They are developing an across discipline evaluation form for teacher evaluations. Each department will still have their discipline specific questions during the end of term student critiques of their professors. They have been meeting with department heads. Any professor who wants to provide input can come to the meetings or e-mail Davis at mdavis@cameron.edu. Their next meeting is the 15th of November.

Many professors do not have a particular classroom assigned for their classes and need to have multimedia equipment in whatever classroom they will be teaching from in any given semester. Davis motioned to affirm our desire to have classrooms equipped with as much of the same multimedia resources as possible; and referred that issue back to the Senate for reassignment, as they are at a loss of what to do because they do not control funding. Hodgson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V.P. Buckley noted that they are trying to put projectors in the classrooms according to needs. So far 13 classrooms have been updated with multimedia resources and next year they will take more money and do more rooms.

Crawford reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting. They are going to provide regular course numbers to more language courses. Students can only take 6 hours of these special courses. However, with the switch to regular course numbers they can take as many of the classes as they need. The Curriculum Committee’s next meeting is the first Tuesday in Dec.

Hodgson reported that the Faculty Development Committee passed 5 of 8 motions.

Suzanne motioned to end the meeting and Johari seconded.

Next Faculty Senate meeting is Weds, Dec 7, 2005 Thanks for your participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wright-Smith
Faculty Senate Secretary