I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cameron University Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, September 7, 2005. Chair James 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, Joe Jones, Phil Adrian, Rick Jerez, Edna McMillan, James Heflin, Harrison Watts, Mike Davis, John Hodgson, Doug Catterall, Suzanne Crawford, John Moots, Chao Zhao, Sharon Christensen, Ted Snider, Todd Raborn, Mary Penick, Jeanne Gaunce

Absent: Sylvia Miller, David Fennema, Gale Hagee, Gabriela Adam-Rodwell, Abbas Johari

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Heflin moved to approve the minutes from the May, 2005, meeting, and Davis seconded. It was approved unanimously.

IV. REMARKS FROM OFFICERS

Chair James Lambert presented his three “R’s” for the Cameron Faculty Senate (reflection, renewal and responsibility) and challenged each member to make shared governance and a passion for teaching a cornerstone to Cameron University’s success. (See attached three “R’s” document.)

Chair-elect John Bachelor noted that he became aware Friday that he was the chair-elect and is glad to be here. He looks forward to serving the university in this position.

Secretary Linda Wright-Smith noted that each committee should submit the minutes to their meetings via e-mail so that we can collect an electronic record of all the committees’ hard work during the coming school year. When a member is unable to attend a Faculty Senate meeting, they should send another faculty member from their department to attend the meeting. In this way, the replacement faculty member can participate and provide timely feedback to his/her department.

Chair Lambert welcomed guest Mr. Jim Jackson, the newly arrived Athletic Director, who addressed the Faculty Senate. He emphasized the importance of
the “student-athlete.” He noted that students may come here because of extracurricular activities (i.e. sports); however, it is our job to provide them a solid educational experience. Values which they are taught on the athletic field and the knowledge of what we as faculty teach them in the classroom form a win-win situation for the athletes’ individual and collective success. If we need help or want people to be involved, the Athletic Department is here to help. As Coach K said, get out of your box and get involved. Athletes become positive representatives of Cameron when they are in the community and talk about their experiences at Cameron. When there are challenges between athletics and academic, we should feel free to call Jim Jackson and give him input. The athletic coaches take what they do and what the faculty at large do very seriously. He is excited about being here and sees a lot of opportunities. We should help each other.

Chair Lambert then circulated several memos reflecting what had transpired during the summer months (since our last May, 2005, meeting). A memorandum highlighting the actions of the Faculty Senate during the spring semester and a memorandum updating the Faculty Senate on items of interest from the May and June 2005 Regents’ meetings were distributed.

Ted Snider presented the voting results of the Chair-elect and motioned that the election be certified. Heflin seconded the motion. Faculty Senate approved this action unanimously.

Lambert motioned to accept the certification of nominees for committee structure presented by Snider, and it was seconded by Heflin. The certification was passed with an amendment to have Mike Davis chair the Academic Standards Committee and John Hodgson serve as the secretary of that committee. Faculty Senate approved this action unanimously. (see attached committee structure). Chair Lambert advised Faculty Senate members to contact Ted Snider about committee structures if you have questions.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Lambert noted that the Faculty Committee recommendations regarding the Faculty Handbook have been returned to that committee because of some legal issues and V.P. Buckley will meet with that committee to discuss these concerns.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Guest speaker Lance Janda discussed some ideas for a standardized instructor evaluation. Plan 2008 calls for standardized instructor evaluations and President Ross would like us to get this accomplished this year. Chair Lambert referred this task to the Academic Standards and Policies Committee and suggested that committee chair Mike Davis consult Dr. Janda regarding this action. Dr. Janda will also coordinate the Hackler award. Janda also announced that Cameron Village will have a faculty in resident program. There will be a call
for faculty to submit their names. Faculty can always call, e-mail, or go and see Janda with ideas regarding his recommendations.

Doug Catterall presented the following two items for consideration: Item #1: That the Faculty Senate consider a written policy for female faculty members who have children. At a number of institutions an untenured, tenure-track female faculty member with a child can request that the tenure “clock” be stopped for that academic year following on from the child’s birth. This policy if adopted will assure that those female faculty who wish to have children may do so without fear of jeopardizing their professional success and will thus also ensure the University of a successful faculty down the road.

Dr. Catterall continued with his item #2: That the Senate consider developing a university-wide policy toward high-tech classrooms and multimedia resources. At present, these resources are appropriated on a departmental basis, with the result that there is likely a certain amount of duplication but which also means that departments that have less access to smart classrooms or media resources are disadvantaged even if resources might exist in another department. The policy in question, would aim to increase current resources and commit the University to this process so that everyone will come out winners in the end.

Chair Lambert referred the first item to the Fringe Benefits and Retirement committee and the seconded items to the Academic Standards and Policies committee for their recommendations to Faculty Senate.

The adjunct faculty has unique concerns but has representatives in the Faculty Senate. Chair Lambert suggested that we should consider if we would want two adjunct faculty members as Faculty Senate members at large to present their needs (one night and one day adjunct). Lambert referred this consideration to the Faculty Committee for their recommendation.

Chair Lambert then entertained the Faculty Senate for potential talking points with President Ross for our next meeting on Wednesday, September 28. Some suggested topics for Dr. Ross when she addresses the Faculty senate include: 
#1: The traffic congestion problem at 38th and Gore needs to be addressed. Should there be a right turn lane so that traffic does not jam up there during the rush hours?
#2: Traffic turning from and into University Blvd where it crosses over to Memorial Hospital is a hazardous spot because there is no stop light there.
#3: How can we increase student retention.
#4: Merit raises versus raises across the board -- for years we have not received a sufficient cost of living increase.

Chair Lambert then requested that the Cameron Faculty Senate take a moment of silence to remember those persons affected in the Mississippi Gulf Coast who have suffered from Hurricane Katrina.

Chair Lambert entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting and Hodgson seconded the motion. Lambert reminded Faculty Senate that our September 28
meeting would replace the regular October meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wright-Smith
Faculty Senate Secretary