Approved minutes for the regular meeting of the CU Faculty Senate, September 11, 2009

Officers Present: Chris Keller (Chair), Matt Jenkins (Chair-Elect), Justin Walton (Secretary)

Senators Present: Abbas Johari, Alfred Duckett, Antonio Laverghetta, Brad McCoy, David Fennema, Dennis Frisby, Diann Megert, Andrew Baker, Frankie White, Gregory Herring, Irene Corriette, James Heflin, Joel Dering, Kim Smith, Roy Couch, Phil Adrian, Gil Hernandez, William Carney, Syed Ahmed, Stephanie White, Russell Graves, Marie-Ginette Baillargeon, Melody Huckaby

Agenda Items

I. Call to order (Keller)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.
Chris Keller welcomed new and returning members to Faculty Senate.

II. Faculty Senate Announcements

Chris Keller briefly introduced the various standing committees as designated by the Faculty Senate Constitution. Keller encouraged senators to sign-up for these committees; a committee sign-up form was passed around. Senators were also encouraged to contact the Faculty Senate officers if they had any questions about committee assignments. The following Faculty Senate Standing Committees are outlined in Article VI of the Faculty Senate Constitution:

- Academic Standards and Policies
- Faculty Committee
- Fringe Benefits and Retirement
- Long-Range Planning
- Rules Committee

III. Old Business

A. The “Going Green” committee, which was originally an ad-hoc committee, will formally become a standing committee this academic year. It has been recommended that this be a five (5) member standing committee.
Frankie White briefly summarized the purpose and efforts of this committee.

B. New Faculty Award Finalizations
Keller discussed the new faculty awards. Drafts of the Faculty Committee’s work on the three listed awards will be emailed to the senators for review. The Senate Officers have drafted a committee list and have, and will continue, to send out
emails requesting volunteers for the remaining positions that need filled. The three awards are:

- The President’s Award for Excellence & Innovation in University Service
- The President’s Award for Excellence & Innovation in Instructional Technology Integration
- The Award for Excellence in Scholarship & Artistic Endeavor in the Educational Enterprise

IV. New Business Items

A. Textbook costs
The Teaching and Learning committee will be examining alternatives to traditional textbooks—specifically, alternatives that may lower the cost of books for students. Several faculty members voiced concerns about students not purchasing textbooks for their classes. Kim Smith noted that several books are available in the library for checkout.

B. Google Website for Faculty Senate Committees
Keller will experiment with a Google discussion board for Faculty Senate Committees.

V. Special Guest Remarks – Cindy Ross, Cameron University President

Pres. Ross thanked the Faculty Senate for their service to Cameron University. She stated that enrollment for the fall semester was up more than 13 percent compared to the fall 2008 semester. The additional students make this the highest headcount at Cameron since 1994. Approximately 550 students are living on-campus this semester, increasing approximately 14 percent since last fall.

Pres. Ross stated that Cameron University faces several challenges this year: (1) the retention of students and (2) budget cuts.

Pres. Ross also announced that Cameron University was launching an ambitious, comprehensive financial assistance package to help students and their families afford a college degree. Tuition and fees at Cameron for 2009-2010 will not increase. Cameron University is rated Number 1 among 572 universities across the United States by U.S. News and World Report’s “Best Colleges” for graduating students with the lowest debt. In addition, the “CU Supports You” package offers financial aid programs and other innovative options to help cover the costs of a Cameron education.

Ross also discussed proposed changes in health insurance and campus strategies for dealing with both the seasonal and H1N1 (Swine) flu viruses.

VI. Adjournment

Abbas Johari moved to adjourn. Jim Hefflin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on October 9, 2009.