CAMERON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
APPROVED MINUTES
February 7, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cameron University Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, February 7, 2007. Chair John Bachelor called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in Howell Hall, Room 106.

II. ROLL CALL


Also in attendance was Vice President John McArthur.

Absent: Sylvia Miller, Keith Lavender, Ric Jerez, Harrison Watts, Scherrey Cardwell, John Moots, Earl Logan, Phil Schroeder, Gabriela Adam-Rodwell, Chao Zhao (replacement for Todd Raborn), Jeanne Gaunce

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Faculty Senate members reviewed the minutes from the January 10, 2007, meeting. Chair John Bachelor made a correction to the wording in section VIII. Adjournment. The wording was changed from "Chair Bachelor moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m." to "Chair Bachelor adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m."

Chair-elect James Lambert motioned to approve the Faculty Senate minutes from January 10, 2007, with corrections. James Heflin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. REMARKS FROM OFFICERS

Chair John Bachelor stated he had some personal remarks that he would save for the end of the meeting.

Chair Bachelor distributed a copy of a memo from President Ross listing items approved at the January 2007 Board of Regents meeting. These items included the following:

- The establishment of the Bill G. Taylor Endowed Lectureship in Mathematical Sciences
- Curricular changes in twelve programs, including the new Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, which Cameron developed in response to the State Regents’ adult degree completion initiative.

Chair Bachelor stated that many of the goals for the Centennial campaign have been reached. However, costs associated with building the Student Activity Complex have increased, and that goal has not yet been met. He stated that faculty could donate to any of the Centennial projects and asked the Faculty Senate for suggestions concerning the most appropriate way for faculty to make contributions. He suggested that faculty could make donations that would go toward benches or trees in the Centennial Gardens, which would be named after the contributor. Also, several faculty members could pool their contributions to reach a higher donation level. Chair Bachelor asked how the topic of donations should be presented to the faculty. Vice President John McArthur stated that all department Chairs have been asked to appoint a department representative to the Centennial Fund Campaign. These representatives are responsible for collecting donations for the Centennial Campaign from faculty in their departments. After much discussion of this topic
by the Faculty Senate, Chair Bachelor summarized the Senate’s conclusions and stated the Senate’s recommendation is that a pledge card be sent to all Cameron faculty, along with a campus mailer or email and a press release.

Chair-elect James Lambert distributed a “100 Year” pin to all Faculty Senate members, stating the Faculty Senate should act as ambassadors of the university.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad Hoc Academic Honesty Committee
Chair John Bachelor reported that the Academic Honesty Committee is in the process of finding new student representatives. Once the student representatives are in place, a meeting time will be determined.

Fringe Benefits Committee
James Heflin reported that the Fringe Benefits Committee recently met with Glen Pinkston. A representative will meet with the committee after Spring Break to discuss teacher retirement issues. Chair Bachelor asked James Heflin and the committee to look into the status of tuition reduction for faculty and staff family members.

Academic Standards & Policies Committee
Mike Davis reminded everyone that training for the IDEA course evaluation forms is scheduled for February 21, 2007. There will be two sessions: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. He emphasized that each department should have at least one representative attend. Vice President McArthur added that the results of the Fall 2006 course evaluations would be available mid March, in time for annual faculty evaluations.

Mike Davis also stated that Sylvia Miller would be retiring at the end of March, vacating the position of Secretary of the AS&PC. Therefore, a member of the Faculty Senate needs to be appointed to serve in this capacity.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Designated smoking areas
Chair John Bachelor stated that President Ross forwarded to him the Student Government resolution designating smoking areas, with the recommendation the resolution be brought before the Faculty Senate. He asked the Senate to review the locations of the twelve designated smoking areas on the campus map and asked if the number of smoking areas was sufficient. He also asked if the locations serve our purpose. Chair Bachelor then called for discussion of the resolution. Two important questions were asked during the discussion. First, did the students actually go to the designated locations, as some are inaccessible? Second, who will enforce the nonsmoking policy? Chair Bachelor then asked if the Faculty Senate supported looking into the resolution.

Chair-elect Lambert motioned that the Faculty Senate ban smoking on campus. Linda Wright-Smith seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

Chair Bachelor stated that the Student Government has attempted to ban smoking on campus for the past several years. There was a motion to ban smoking last year that was vetoed. This year the Student Government circulated a petition and conducted a survey of student preferences and once again proposed legislation to ban smoking on campus. The current resolution is a compromise. Chair Bachelor noted that the major problem encountered is getting into a building without passing through a cloud of smoke. The designated smoking area resolution would be easier to enforce than the current “no smoking within 25 feet of an entrance” regulation.

Chair Bachelor stated that the responsibility of the Faculty Senate is to let the Student Government know what we want. A discussion followed. The question was asked if the campus
police had input into the proposed smoking area locations. It was stated that imposing fines is too harsh a measure and that research shows punitive measures do not work. There was concern that a ban on smoking would cause smokers to switch schools. It was noted that fines were geared toward faculty, staff, and students, but outsiders also smoked on campus. Would outsiders be fined and how would these fines be collected? It was stated that those so inclined would find a way to smoke. The fact that our buildings were paid for by smokers’ taxes was also mentioned.

Chair-elect Lambert stated that we need a statement from the Faculty Senate to President Ross that the Senate does not agree with the resolution from the Student Government.

Chair Bachelor stated that the Faculty Senate would vote on a motion to endorse the resolution with amendments.

James Heflin moved to bring the tabled motion to the table. David Fennema seconded the motion.

Further discussion ensued leading to several recommendations.

1. It was recommended that the designated theatre smoking area be moved to the open area between the music and theatre buildings.
2. It was also recommended that the library smoking area be moved to the north side of the building.
3. There was concern about smoking areas located in the vicinity of air intakes to buildings.
4. Vice President McArthur suggested that Public Safety and Physical Facilities be contacted to discuss this concern.
5. It was recommended that associated fines be removed.

James Heflin called for question to endorse the Student Government resolution as it is now. After a second, the motion was voted on and failed unanimously.

Chair Bachelor asked for a motion to embody the comments made concerning the Student Government Resolution and forward them to administration for consideration.

Mike Davis made the motion that the Faculty Senate comments be forwarded to administration and Sherry Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Faculty Handbook Chapter 4 proposal**

Chair-elect James Lambert moved to bring to the table the motion to vote on the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook. David Fennema seconded the motion.

Chair-elect Lambert stated that the Faculty Senate approval of the changes to the Faculty Handbook would allow the faculty as a whole to vote. This approval would bring all data in the Faculty Handbook from 2004 up to date to February 2007.

Edna McMillan noted that all revisions to the Faculty Handbook Chapter 4 suggested at the January 2007 Faculty Senate meeting have been made and are noted in red in the electronic version sent to all Faculty Senate members.

Chair-elect Lambert stated that he hoped the Faculty Senate would approve the revisions to the Faculty Handbook so the faculty could cast its vote.

James Heflin motioned to endorse to accept corrections and send the revised Faculty Handbook to the faculty. David Fennema seconded the motion. The motion carried.
VII. NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of new Academic Standards & Policies Committee secretary

Ted Snider stated that the Rules Committee recommends Mary Penick as the new secretary to the Academic Standards & Policies Committee. Ted Snider motioned to appoint Mary Penick. Chair-elect Lambert seconded the motion.

Discussion and action on deadline for final grades

Mike Davis stated that some English faculty are concerned about the reduction in the number of working days from three to two between the last final exam and the time grades are due. He asked that the administration consider those who assign essay exams to large classes, noting that essays require additional grading time. He stated that reducing the grading time would further encourage instructors to move away from essay exams. This is contradictory to the emphasis that faculty have been asked to place on writing across the curriculum. A discussion of this issue ensued.

Vice President McArthur stated that Cameron’s staff cannot leave campus until all reports are in and that it takes two full days to process the reports. At the end of last semester, the staff had to work on Christmas Eve. He emphasized that other schools allow only one and one-half to two days for submission of final grades. He noted that this spring Cameron would experience a computer conversion, requiring an additional window of time between the spring and summer semesters. Therefore, a reduction in the amount of time allowed for final grade submission was necessary. Vice President McArthur further stated that if this was a concern, the issue should be referred to the Academic Standards & Policies Committee.

It was asked if final exam schedules could be organized. Vice President McArthur stated that he has asked Marshall Ferrell to review the current exam schedules.

It was noted that some universities have evening final exams. It was also mentioned that there are classes that meet on the weekend after graduation. Vice President McArthur noted that we still have classes during finals week. He emphasized that we need a systematic review of our finals week schedule and brought up the question of adding dead days. He also noted that the Academic Standards & Policies Committee should systematically review this issue.

Chair Bachelor asked if there was a motion to refer this issue to the Academic Standards & Policies Committee. Chair-elect Lambert motioned to refer this issue to Academic Standards & Policies. David Fennema seconded the motion.

Other issues

Curriculum Committee. Tony Wohlers stated that a member of the Curriculum Committee brought the following concern to his attention, asking that it be brought before the Faculty Senate. The Curriculum Committee considered a proposal from Institutional Research and Support Services to add a new program leading to a B.S. degree in Organizational Leadership. After thorough discussion, the Curriculum Committee rejected the proposal unanimously due to questions raised regarding Cameron’s ability to control the quality of the program and the lack of a residence requirement. However, the Board of Regents later accepted the proposal, without communication between the Curriculum Committee and the Regents.

Vice President McArthur addressed this concern, stating that the Curriculum Committee is a recommending body, not an approving body. He noted that he had requested the Curriculum Committee minutes pertaining to this proposal, but had received none. Therefore, he reviewed the proposal on its own merits and passed it on to President Ross for recommendation to the Regents.

Resignation. Chair John Bachelor announced to the Faculty Senate that he had resigned from his position as Assistant Professor in the School of Business. He stated that at the close of the semester, he would return to a full-time, private law practice in Duncan. Chair Bachelor also stated that after his departure, the Faculty-in-Residence position would be available. He
emphasized that this was a great program of significant value to students, and he hoped other faculty would consider serving in this capacity.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Bachelor adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

IX. NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. in Howell Hall, Room 106.

Respectfully submitted
Monika Linehan
Faculty Senate Secretary