Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in Room 104, Student Union.

I. ROLL CALL, AGENDA, AND CALL TO ORDER

Present: Underwood (Chair), Bursten, Davis, Lanasa, Groves, Dawe, Fennema, Lee (Provost)

Absent: Vitense, Zhao.

The minutes from the November 12, 2003 meeting were approved previously by email and by acclamation.

An announcement was made regarding the December 12, 2003 meeting of the President’s Planning Committee.

An announcement was made that Krishnan received a Fulbright and will need to be replaced as a Committee member.

II. OLD BUSINESS

The Committee returned to the three points from the previous meeting:

1. The institutional signature and the common characteristics of the academic experience at Cameron.
2. Improvements to the academic environment at Cameron.
3. The path(s) taken to achieve academic excellence at Cameron.

The Committee considered the definition of an academic signature to include student and employer perceptions of the institution and the common academic experience. The Committee discussed the need to identify Cameron’s signature (its unique contribution). One suggestion was that Cameron’s academic signature might include preparing students to be life-long learners.

The Committee discussed how a cross-disciplinary, team-taught course required for all majors would fit with that academic signature.

The Committee discussed academic excellence as part of Cameron’s academic signature. The Committee considered retention and remediation and the merits of creating a school/college of basic studies. The Committee discussed the links between academic excellence and grading policies, admission standards, course withdrawal policies, administrative policies, and faculty roles (discipline specialization, research agendas, release for research).
Returning to the issue of Cameron’s academic signature, the Committee discussed program self-description and identifying the unique contribution of each program/department. The Committee discussed methods by which to identify what is special about Cameron and its programs.

II. NEW BUSINESS

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by:
T. Davis, Secretary

Faculty Senate Long-Range Planning Committee