CAMERON UNIVERSITY

FACULTY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES

October 23, 2002

Meeting was convened at 3:30 PM in Howell Hall Room 106.

1. ROLL CALL, AGENDA, AND CALL TO ORDER

Present: Kingsley, Morris, Janda, Bhattacharya, Zoubi, Reynolds, Smith, Jones, Dzindolet, Warren, Reeves, Davis, Hodgson, Hofmann, Bausch, Branson, Snider, Smyth, Raborn, Wright-Smith, Blackman

Absent: Heflin, Logan, Netherland, Zhao

Motion to approve the roll/agenda as called: Wright-Smith; Second: Snider. The motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Motion to approve the Faculty Council Minutes of September 4, 2002 with corrections: Reynolds; Second: Janda. The motion carried.

Motion to approve the Faculty Council Minutes of September 25, 2002: Janda; Second: Snider. The motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Ted Snider reported that proposed modifications to the Faculty Handbook with regard to attendance passed a vote of the Cameron University faculty by 44-20 margin. These changes will be sent to the administration for final approval.

The council discussed Faculty Handbook regulations concerning the assignment of incomplete ("I") grades, and then referred the issue to the Academic Standards and Policies Committee for further review.

Marge Kingsley reported that the proposed amendment to the Faculty Handbook regarding salary notifications was discussed recently by Faculty Council officers and Dr. Cindy Ross, president of Cameron University. The consensus of that meeting was that the proposed 14 day period for faculty members to appeal departmental recommendations related to salary adjustments was not viable, and that the rest of the proposed changes were already accommodated by the Faculty Handbook. Rather than a regulatory issue, the problem noted most often by faculty with regard to salary and promotion notification and appeal therefore seems to be one of uniform compliance across campus. Much discussion followed.

Motion that Faculty Council expresses its concern that salary notification procedures as outlined in Section 5.7 of the Faculty Handbook have not been uniformly followed across campus in recent years. The Council asks that the administration consider implementing some additional training for department chairs, so that they may be better informed and better prepared in this regard: Janda; Second: Jones. The motion carried.

Benson Warren delivered the Faculty Committee Report on Scholarship, including a condensed list of suggestions from Dr. Glassick regarding Boyer's concept of scholarship at the university level. The main emphasis was on the need for modification of Faculty Handbook standards reflecting the definition and importance of scholarship at Cameron, with both Dr. Glassick and the Faculty Committee adding that how

those standards are changed is dependent on the direction the CU administration and faculty wish to go. Much discussion followed.

Motion that the Faculty Council recommends that there be created a committee to examine the process by which Cameron Faculty are evaluated (both on an annual basis and for promotion and tenure), with particular attention to the three principle areas in which faculty are evaluated: scholarship, teaching, and service: Warren; Second: Morris. The motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Sherry Young discussed the problem of rising costs in the library serials department. Expenditures have risen 8 to 10% a year nationally for subscriptions to scholarly journals, and the CU library is set to spend $360,000 (a 10% increase over FY 02) on serials in FY 03. There are more than 164,000 serials available for subscription, and each year technology and storage costs rise dramatically. The result is that the library pays more each year for either fewer subscriptions or fewer monographs, because libraries tend to hold on to subscriptions and the money available for books is therefore diminished. At the same time, Interlibrary Loan costs are rising, and therefore the library will be forced to reduce the number of titles to which CU subscribes in the future.

Marge Kingsley talked about Internet 2, which is now available on campus, suggesting it was useful for conferencing and superior to the traditional internet for video and audio applications. Faculty were directed to www.internet2.edu for more information.

Professor Kingsley also mentioned that the administration is looking into the possibility of offering retirement incentives to faculty. Dr. McKellips, Joe Jones, and the Fringe Benefits and Retirement Committee are among those examining the idea to see if it might be useful at Cameron.

Marge then directed discussion to the topic of commencement, saying the administration was looking into possible format changes.

Motion to charge the Lectures and Concerts Committee with choosing Convocation and Commencement speakers in the future: Morris; Second: Hodgson. The motion carried.

At professor Kingsley’s direction, Faculty Council then examined the revised committee structure. The purpose of each committee was discussed, along with those changes recommended by Dr. Kingsley and the administration. Much discussion followed.

Motion to combine the Institutional Services and Internal Services committees into one committee at the university level which would handle the combined duties of both: Morris; Second: Bhattacharya. The motion carried.

Motion to eliminate the Advisement and Retention Task Force and replace it with the President’s Task Force on Student Retention and the Advisement Committee of Faculty Council: Snider; Second: Wright-Smith. The motion carried.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PRESIDENT ROSS

President Ross announced the establishment of a screening committees for the positions of Vice President for Business and Finance and Provost at Cameron University. Faculty Council officers will be included on both, and the provost search committee will include large numbers of faculty.

She also indicated that the President’s Planning Committee has been reorganized and reconstituted with more students; that work has begun to establish CU alumni organizations in other cities; that the rules governing
Cameron Foundation have been revised to improve record-keeping and accountability; that a strong emphasis will be placed on student recruitment and retention and that more money will be made available for faculty grants; that fund-raising and the CU centennial celebration in 2008 will be important priorities in the coming years; that President's Partners scholarships for freshmen will be established, composed of $400 grants and $400 in tuition waivers, and that each discipline will be able to grant two scholarships per year; and that guidelines for the Hacker Teaching Awards will be revised so that nominations will come from faculty and students rather than from the administration starting next year.

6. ADJOURNMENT--

Motion to adjourn: Jones; Second: Snider. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Submitted by,
Lance Janda,
Faculty Council Secretary