Faculty Senate Minutes for
Wednesday May 12, 2010

In Attendance: Bennett Amaechi, Yidong Bai, Margaret Brackley, Krista Bowers, Diana Beckmann-Mendez, Peter Gakunga, Donna Gardner, Kaparaboyna Kumar, Mark Nadeau, Barry Norling, Keith Krolick, Mark Soucy, and Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal,

Absent: Allison Beck, Nandini Ghosh-Choudhury, Daniel Johnson, Joe Conner, Sally Combest, Christopher Franka, Catherine Ortega, Qitao Ran, James Roberts, Sara Gill, V Sreenath Reddy, and Brent Shriver

The Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by the Chair, Dr. Ben Amaechi.

Dr. Robert Kaminski, D.D.S., Ed.D., Assistant President for Academic Administration provided a campus update. There were no announcements from the President’s Office. Dr. Kaminski addressed study abroad issues. The UT System is requesting each institution have an oversight committee to review international travel for students and faculty. This issue is being addressed by Student Services and the International Services Office. There should be something to report on this by August.

Dr. Janet Williams, Professor of Pediatrics and Chair Elect of the UT system’s Academy of Health Science Education discussed the nomination process and ways to make the process smoother so it works well for getting UT-HSCSA faculty selected for this prestigious academy. The Faculty is one of three sources of nominations for the academy. The President’s Office and the Academy of Master Teachers is the other two. We should work together to make our candidates strong with the force of the institution behind the nominees. Nominations are due in November. The idea is to reward excellence in teaching at the Health Campuses.

UT Faculty Advisory Council update was provided by Dr. Brackley.

- Campuses are dealing with the cut in budgets in various ways including layoffs and cutting programs.
- The Chancellor is meeting with senates across the components. He is about half way through which means he should visit our campus this coming academic year.
- Graduate student issues such as not waiving their tuition and making international students pay out of state tuition has been raised as an issue for making the UT System less competitive in bringing in qualified students.
- There was a no vote on midterm evaluation for faculty with suggestions to the Student Regent as to other ways to accomplish their desired goal of having more input into the course
• A recommendation to improve health insurance for students across the campuses will be presented to the Regents
• A resolution from Health Affairs was developed commending the Board of Regents for answering the call to increase the number of health care professionals and urging them to put quality over quantity. It says, we hope that the University of Texas institutions recognize the importance of the faculty obligations of research and teaching and will not sacrifice them merely in order to increase class size and/or clinical productivity.

The meeting concluded with a reminder to nominate appropriate persons for the Faculty and Administration Leadership Awards, and a reminder about each school’s need to hold Elections of New Senators.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Amaechi at 5:15 PM.