

CHFA Senate Meeting Agenda  
April 5, 2004  
Minutes #259

Present: Ken Bleile, Roy Behrens, Julia Trahan, Ronnie Bankston, Juan Carlos Castillo, Amy RohrBerg, Jim Lubker, Aaron Podolefsky, Susan Koch

1. Visit with Provost Aaron Podolefsky

Provost Podolefsky held a question/answer session with the Senate.

- Even through the budget cuts, our class sizes have not changed much. The student/faculty ratio is the lowest it has been. We have 1,000 less students. The Provost's office is receiving fewer complaints than ever before from students unable to get into needed classes. 75% of our classes are being taught by tenured/tenure-track faculty.
- Additional costs for the Library and the computer internet are a concern.
- Many of the equipment funds across the university have been cut severely or eliminated. We will need to use money from empty lines to begin rebuilding those funds.
- The fine and performing arts are important to a student's general education, but also are important to the community especially in economic development areas.
- Senators cited difficulties faculty are experiencing due to budget cuts. They are shouldering more advising duties, serving on more committees, and making due with less clerical support. They also have less time to devote to research.
- Hard decisions will still need to be made if the legislature mandates another budget cut. For example, programs may need to be reduced to a minor or eliminated or the funds for some low enrollment courses may need to be moved to provide a desperately needed secretarial line.
- ITS is working on obtaining a filter to help control the amount of spam e-mails without infringing on academic freedom.

2. Minutes #258 from the March 1, 2004 meeting were approved as presented (RB, KB).

3. CHFA Faculty Excellence Award – Senators discussed the nominations and will name a recipient of the award at the next meeting.

4. New Business

The University Book and Supply Outstanding Teaching Award for an untenured faculty member will be presented to Ken Atkinson, Philosophy and Religion, on April 21. A similar event will be held in the fall for the senior faculty member receiving the CHFA Faculty Excellence Award.

Four of the six Regents Awards for Faculty Excellence were in CHFA.

The meeting adjourned 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Harris