I. APPROVAL OF THE CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Deborah Harter, Speaker of the Faculty Senate, welcomed the Rice faculty to the final plenary meeting of the 2008-2009 academic year. She asked Ed Billups, Interim Chair of the Examinations and Standing Committee, and David Tenney, Registrar, to present the list of candidates for undergraduate degrees. They presented the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Undergraduate Degrees</th>
<th>May 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (BA)</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS: Bachelor of Science (BS)</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Bioengineering (BSBE)</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Chemical Engineering (BSCHE)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Civil Engineering (BSCE)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Computer Science (BSCS)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Electrical Engineering (BSEE)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Mechanical Engineering (BSME)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Music (BMUS)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total (undergraduate degrees)** 734

| Bachelor of Architecture (UP)   | 17 |

**Grand Total (undergraduate degrees)** 751

* Actual # of students: 687 UGs and 17 UPs

Billups stated that approval of these candidates had been moved and seconded in a recent meeting of the Examinations and Standing Committee. Harter asked for discussion; there
II. APPROVAL OF UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

Billups and Tenney presented the list of candidates for undergraduate honors, see below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Honors (Jan &amp; May 2009)</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>summa cum laude (top 5%): (4.011 – 4.183)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magna cum laude (next 10%): (3.892 – 4.010)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cum laude (next 15%): (3.759 – 3.891)</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Number of Undergraduates Receiving Honors 227

Billups stated that the Examinations and Standing Committee had moved and seconded approval for the awarding of honors in a recent meeting. Harter asked for discussion prior to the faculty vote. One faculty member questioned why any student with all A’s, a 4.0 grade point average (GPA), is not awarded summa cum laude. Tenney explained that, although many of Rice’s peer institutions do not award grades above a 4.0, Rice awards a 4.33 for A+, resulting in some students earning a GPA that is higher than 4.0. He said a decision was made that the summa cum laude recipients would be limited to the top 5% of graduates, and this year’s distribution of honors recipients is comparable to the past two years’ lists. After more discussion, Harter asked that the Faculty Senate take up the tandem issue of grading standards and the grading scale used for the awarding of honors at graduation during Fall 2009.

Another faculty member noted that honors students make up 30% of the graduating class. He asked how this proportion compares to other institutions. Tenney explained that the percentage of honors students has been constant at Rice for a number of years. At other institutions there is significant variation in this regard—some schools have 10% of their graduates receiving honors awards while others total 30%, similar to Rice. It was requested that a 2-3 year comparison be performed by the Registrar and shown to the Rice faculty annually. It was also requested that the Faculty Senate consider the selection process currently used by honor societies such as Phi Beta Kappa to determine honors awards.

The resulting vote by the faculty was for approval of the undergraduate honors awards.

III. APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR ADVANCED DEGREES

Professor Moshe Vardi, Chair of the Graduate Council, and Tenney presented the list of candidates for advanced degrees. The totals are shown below:
Recommended Advanced Degrees  May 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (MA)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science (MS)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Architecture (MARCH)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Environmental Analysis &amp; Decision Making (MEADM)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Nanoscale Physics (MNAPHY)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Subsurface Geoscience (MSG)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Music (MMUS)</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Bioengineering (MBE)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Chemical Engineering (MChE)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Electrical Engineering (MEE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Mechanical Engineering (MME)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Statistics (MSTAT)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Business Administration (MBA)</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Liberal Studies (MLS)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total (Advanced Degrees): 561

There was a motion and second to approve the list. The resulting vote was in favor of approval of the advanced degrees.

IV. YEAR-END SUMMARY OF FACULTY SENATE ACTIVITIES

Harter noted the tremendous work of the members of the Senate over the course of the year, and asked that all current Senators stand. They did so and received a hearty round of applause. Members of the Executive Committee were then asked to stand, and they also received applause from their colleagues.

Harter then recognized several individuals for their special service this year:

- Rebekah Drezek, Matteo Pasquali, and Rob Raphael for their contributions as the Working Group on Amorous Relations
- Jim Young and Meredith Skura who chaired, respectively, the Working Group on Teaching and the Working Group on Admissions
- Evan Siemann and Don Morrison for their work on several sub-committees
- Randy Stevenson for his service as the Senate’s Parliamentarian
- Michael Stern, who served as Deputy Speaker 2007-2008
- Duane Windsor, who served as Deputy Speaker 2008-2009
- Marj Corcoran, who was the Speaker of the Senate for two years (2005-2007)

Harter also announced the newly elected leaders for 2009-2010: Prof. Duane Windsor (Jones School) as Speaker and Prof. Jim Young (Engineering) as Deputy Speaker.
Harter recapped the accomplishments of the Senate during 2008-2009:

- The Senate approved four major curricular proposals, including interdisciplinary minors in Jewish Studies, Energy and Water Sustainability, and Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities.

- Formed working groups to address faculty priorities in general admissions, the evaluation of teaching at Rice, the Health of the Honor Code, and amorous relations.

- Put together faculty panels to conduct the reviews of two Deans, panels that represent the first implementation of the new Dean Review policy passed by the Senate just last year.

- While it did not represent the key faculty resource for the President in terms of deliberations on the subject of a possible merger with Baylor, the Senate worked hard to lend its support by:
  - Meeting in Executive session twice with the President to hear reports on ongoing Baylor deliberations
  - Organizing two major faculty forums, as well as an open panel discussion with the trustees
  - Putting together a Special Plenary in response to a faculty petition, and then a campus-wide election in order to record the views of the faculty at large
  - And, finally, working to determine the membership and new Chair for what will now be called the Faculty Merger Review Committee.

- Finally, and in response to a call for action from Rebekah Drezek to reconsider an outdated and unclear policy on amorous relations, and on the basis of enormous work by many individuals over the course of the year and two major discussions on the floor of the Senate, the Senate approved a brand new faculty statement on consensual, amorous relations between faculty and students. It establishes, principally, that sexual and romantic relations, whether or not they are consensual, are prohibited when it comes to graduate students under our direct or indirect supervision, and when it comes to undergraduates across the board.

Harter noted that some faculty members had expressed concern that such a broad prohibition of relations with undergraduates was too strict, and she said that this input had been very helpful. In the end, however, the Senate voted heavily in favor of this very broad prohibition, agreeing with Professor Don Morrison when he said, at one of their meetings: “I think that the consequences are so often so very poor when there are romantic relations between faculty and undergraduates that it is appropriate to maintain prohibition across the board. I say this fully recognizing that I have friends in happy
marriages with people who were undergraduate students in their classes, and that adopting such a policy would be at the cost of a certain number of instances of true love and happy marriages. But I also think it is important to acknowledge that there is enough damage done to star-struck freshmen by aging male faculty members like myself that we simply do not have a choice.”

Harter noted that some faculty worry there is no discussion in the policy of what constitutes an amorous relationship. She explained that determining such things, along with determining the appropriate sanction in a given case (and these range from mild reprimand all the way to dismissal) would continue to be determined in every instance by a specially-convened faculty panel.

In summary, Harter stated that in the four years since the inception of the Senate, huge things had been accomplished for the very reason that the Senate is so deliberative in the way it works. The special plenary meeting held recently had itself been an example of how things can be accomplished within the rules of the Faculty Senate.

Vardi raised a question, saying that he had asked a Senator just prior to the meeting as to the status of the formation of the new Faculty Merger Review Committee (FMRC), and that the Senator said he/she did not know its status. Vardi expressed concern and asked Harter how the Speaker was going to implement the FMRC resolution passed at the recent Plenary. Harter replied by outlining the process currently underway. A small committee of Senators had been meeting (Harter, Morrison, Siemann, Windsor, and Young) and collecting names for a chair and for other members of the new committee. For the position of chair, they are looking, she said, for a distinguished faculty member who is reasonably neutral on the issue, does not have a close affiliation with the Baylor College of Medicine, is not the chair of a department which has a lot to gain from the merger, and who can run a great meeting. Harter has written to the Executive Committee informing them of the FMRC status, but since the Faculty Senate is no longer meeting this year, this larger body had not yet been informed. She noted finally that the process was taking some time.

Vardi commented that although the process Harter had outlined seemed reasonable, the Faculty Senate should be informed of the process. Randy Stevenson, Parliamentarian, forcefully intervened, explaining that the process Harter had described is the same process used on every issue that the Senate considers. A working group typically prepares information for the Executive Committee, which sets the agenda for the Senate. The Senate, moreover, is now no longer in session, and needn’t be apprised of the progress on this until there are results to report.

Harter noted that she would soon let the Executive Committee know what the working group has decided, and that she would then work with President Leebron to determine the final choice for chair of the FMRC. Harter added that the working group had decided that it would like to retain all members of the previous Faculty Advisory Committee, although it would perhaps add a few new individuals.
Professor Martin Wiener asked Harter to clarify how she will work with President Leebron to select the chair, and particularly whether the president has a veto over this selection. Harter replied that the resolution adopted states that the Faculty Senate will make the chair selection in consultation with the university administration. Both Harter and President Leebron explained the meaning of consultation and that in particular it did not involve a veto by the university administration. After clarifying this meaning, Harter added that in a recent consultation during which she mentioned three tentative names, the President had said he would be comfortable with any of the three choices.

Harter encouraged the faculty to stay in communication with their Senate representatives, as individuals elected from across the campus to represent them. She said that the Senate represented the best possible path towards genuine shared governance at Rice, and that it had been an enormous honor to serve as its Speaker for the previous two years. A round of applause was given for Harter and for the Senate’s work.

President Leebron noted that Harter had put in four years of work in the Senate, and that most could not be aware of the level of engagement she had maintained. The list of Senate accomplishments is remarkable, he said, and the Senate had functioned while maintaining a culture of respect. Leebron said that Harter had achieved progress on a broad range of issues and had done so in a way that preserves civility. Harter was again applauded.

V. FACULTY AWARDS

President Leebron announced and handed out the following awards and prizes.

A. TEACHING AWARDS

George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching

James Brown, Professor of Economics

George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

John Boles, William Pettus Hobby Professor of History

Ussama Makdisi, Arab American Education Foundation Professor of History

Yousif Shamoo, Wiess Career Development Chair and Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology

Marcia Brennan, Associate Professor of Art History

Matthias Henze, Watt J. and Lilly G. Jackson Chair in Biblical Studies and Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Bridget Gorman, Associate Professor of Sociology
Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Award
John Henry Zammito, John Antony Weir Professor of History and German Studies

Nicolas Salgo Outstanding Teacher Award
Brent Houchens, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science

Charles Duncan Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
Brendan Hassett, Professor of Mathematics

Presidential Award for Mentoring
Robert L. Patten, Lynette S. Autrey Professor in Humanities
Jane Grande-Allen, Assistant Professor of Bio-Engineering

Sarofim Teaching Award
Peggy Patterson, Lecturer for the Center for the Study of Languages

Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management Award for Excellence in Teaching
Steve Crawford, Assistant Professor, Jones Full-Time MBA Teaching Award for Excellence
Barbara Ostdiek, Associate Professor of Management and Statistics, Jones MBA for Executives Teaching Award for Excellence
Prashant Kale, Associate Professor of Management, Jones MBA for Professionals Teaching Award for Excellence
Leo Linbeck, Adjunct Professor, Jones Alumni Teaching Award for Excellence

Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize
Luay Nakhleh, Assistant Professor, Computer Science

Faculty Teaching/Mentoring Award
J. Dennis Huston, Professor of English
Matteo Pasquali, Professor of Chemistry

B. OUTSTANDING COLLEGE ASSOCIATES

Baker College: David McStravick, Professor in the Practice in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science
**Brown College:**  
Ivo-Jan van der Werff, Professor of Viola, Shepherd School of Music

**Hanszen College:**  
John Greiner, Lecturer in Computer Science

**Jones College:**  
Lin Zhong, Assistant Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science

**Lovett College:**  
Stephen Klineberg, Professor of Sociology

**Martel College:**  
Anthony and Michelle Chan, Physics and Astronomy

**Sid Richardson College:**  
Lon Wilson, Professor of Chemistry

**Wiess College:**  
Elias Bongmba, Harry and Hazel Chavanne Chair in Christian Theology and Professor of Religious Studies

**Will Rice College**  
Elizabeth Heckelman, Lecturer in Education Certification

**VI. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY**

President Leebron recognized the following individuals, each of whom received applause:

- **David Schneider**  
  Professor of Psychology  
  20 years

- **Billy Bonner**  
  Prof. of Physics & Director of T.W. Bonner Nuclear Lab  
  24 years

- **Ronald N. Taylor**  
  Professor of Management  
  26 years

- **Bala Dharan**  
  J. Howard Creekmore Professor of Management  
  27 years

- **Peter Mieszkowski**  
  Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Economics  
  30 years

- **Hannu Miettinen**  
  Professor of Physics and Astronomy  
  32 years
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. IN MEMORIAM

President Leebron asked the faculty for a moment of silence in honor of the four professors who died this year.

James A. Castaneda        Professor of Hispanic Studies
Gordon Mutchler           Professor of Physics & Astronomy
Atieno Odhiambo           Professor of History
William L. Wilson, Jr.    Professor Emeritus, Electrical & Computer Engineering

B. COMMENCEMENT

Harter read aloud directions from Keith Cooper, Chair of the Marshals Committee, regarding the 96th Commencement at Rice, to be held Saturday, May 9, 2009.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.