Plenary Meeting of the Rice University Faculty

May 11, 2012

International Conference Room, Baker Institute

Agenda:

I. Presentation and Approval of Undergraduate Degree Candidates
II. Presentation and Approval of Undergraduate Honors
III. Presentation and Approval of Candidates for Advanced Degrees
IV. Year-End Summary of Faculty Senate Activities
V. Announcements
VI. Faculty Awards (move to Dore’ Commons)
VII. Recognition of Retiring Faculty Members

I. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Faculty Senate Speaker Susan McIntosh convened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. She called on Professor Stan Dodds, Chair of the University Committee on Examinations and Standing (EX&S), to present the list of baccalaureate degree candidates for faculty approval. Dodds stated that there were no exceptions, and he asked Registrar David Tenney to present detailed information on the degrees, as shown below. Tenney reported that 783 undergraduate degrees are to be awarded to a total of 740 students on May 12, 2012, at Rice University’s 99th Commencement. He stated that there were many students graduating with double majors, and he said that the number of minors awarded has grown each year, including 53 minors in business this year. McIntosh stated that the request for faculty approval of the undergraduate degree candidates came moved and seconded from EX&S. A vote was held among the assembled faculty members, and the motion received unanimous approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Undergraduate Degrees</th>
<th>May 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (BA)</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science (BS)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS in Bioengineering (BSBE)</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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II. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF UNDERGRADUATE HONORS
The faculty members present were reminded that honors information is confidential until the commencement ceremony. Tenney presented the following data for Latin Honors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Honors (Dec 2011 &amp; May 2012)</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>summa cum laude (top 5%): (4.052 – 4.300)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magna cum laude (next 10%): (3.935 – 4.051)</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cum laude (next 15%): (3.790 – 3.934)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Undergraduates Receiving Honors</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| BS in Chemical Engineering (BSCHE) | 43 |
| BS in Civil Engineering (BSCE) | 21 |
| BS in Computer Science (BSCS) | 11 |
| BS in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) | 20 |
| BS in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) | 42 |
| BS in Materials Science (BSMS) | 6 |
| Bachelor of Music (BMUS) | 26 |
| Total (undergraduate degrees) | 764 |
| Bachelor of Architecture (UP) | 19 |
| Grand Total (undergraduate degrees) | 783 |
Tenney stated that four years ago, every student graduating with a grade point average (GPA) above a 4.0 was awarded *summa cum laude*. The policy was changed so that today, only the students with the top 5% overall GPA’s are awarded *summa*. This year, Tenney said, there were 30 individuals with a GPA between 4.0 and *summa*. McIntosh stated that the request for faculty approval of the undergraduate honors candidates came moved and seconded from EX&S. A vote was held among the assembled faculty members, and the motion received unanimous approval.

### III. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR ADVANCED DEGREES

McIntosh called on Professor John Olson, Chair of the Graduate Council, to present the candidates for advanced degrees. Olson stated that there are 548 advanced degrees to be presented, with no exceptions, as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Advanced Degrees</th>
<th>May 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy (PHD)</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Arts (MA)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science (MS)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Architecture (MARCH)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Music (MMUS)</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Business Administration (MBA)</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Liberal Studies (MLS)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Bioengineering (MBE)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Chemical Engineering (MChE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Civil and Environmental Engineering (MCEE)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Master Degrees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Computational and Applied Mathematics (MCAAM)</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Electrical Engineering (MEE)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Materials Science (MMS)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Mechanical Engineering (MME)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Statistics (MSTAT)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science Teaching (MST)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Environmental Analysis &amp; Decision Making (MEADM)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Nanoscale Physics (MNAPHY)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Subsurface Geoscience (MSG)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total (Advanced Degrees)</strong></td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

McIntosh stated that the request for faculty approval of the advanced degree candidates came moved and seconded from the Graduate Council. The assembled faculty voted unanimously for approval. McIntosh thanked Professors Dodds and Olson and Registrar Tenney for their presentations.

### IV. YEAR-END SUMMARY OF FACULTY SENATE ACTIVITIES

McIntosh said it was her privilege to provide a brief report on the Senate and its activities during the 2011-2012 academic year. She said that the Senate again had an ambitious agenda, and its successes are due to the hard work of senators, whom she asked to stand. The senators received a round of applause from their colleagues attending the plenary session.

McIntosh stated that the Senate undertook several significant projects and initiatives. Two working groups continued their work on projects begun last year, and two new working groups were formed to study particular issues and make recommendations. She said that the effort involved is considerable and the significance of this service is enormous. McIntosh thanked, on behalf of the faculty, all those who were involved with these efforts.
**Major Projects I: Working Group on Communication in the Curriculum (Helena Michie, Chair)**
Recommendation to establish a Program in Writing and Communication comprising:
- New Center for Written, Oral and Visual Communication
  - Includes ESL support
- Freshman Writing-Intensive Seminars (FWIS)
- Advanced Communication in the Curriculum courses (target implementation date: Fall 2015)

Endorsed by Senate in December, 2010; slate for PWC Faculty Advisory Board approved

**Major Projects II: Working Group on Faculty Appeals and Grievances (Carl Caldwell, Chair)**
- Revised “Faculty Senate Rules for Appeals and Grievances”
- Revised “Procedures for Investigating Accusations Against Faculty Members Resulting in Severe Sanctions, Including Dismissal”
- Changes to associated documents:
  - Recommended Revisions to Section 8 of University Policy 201
  - Amended Senate Bylaws Section 5.5

**Major Projects III: Working Group on Retirement Planning (Kathy Matthews, Chair)**
Produced an extensive report that included:
- Survey of retired and current faculty and administrators
- Overview of retirement plans at peer institutions
- Recommended changes to current faculty retirement system

Endorsed by Senate in January 2012
University administration has begun implementing first stage of recommendations

**Major Projects IV: Working Group on Non-Tenure Track Teaching Faculty (Dave Caprette, Chair)**
- Clarified voting eligibility definition for NTT-Teaching faculty
- Recommended addition of two NTT-Teaching seats on Faculty Senate, for a total of three, approved by Senate March 2012, implemented in April 2012 election

**Senate Resolutions approving recommendations from University Standing Committees:**
Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum:
- Latin American Studies Major
- New procedure for awarding Latin Honors by School
- New university-wide graduation honor: Distinction in Research and Creative Works
- Change in rules regarding Pass/Fail within the major
- Reduce LPAP requirement to one course for credit
- Syllabus Standards Policy
Graduate Council:
- Professional Science Masters Track in Space Studies
- Non-thesis Masters of Arts option in Philosophy
- Post-Masters Artist Diploma in Music

Committee on Research:
- Revisions to University Policy 324: Research Misconduct
- Revised Research Misconduct Procedures document

Senate Initiatives:
- Approved new University Open Access Policy
- Hosted with President Leebron “Rice 2032: Building the Vision in Disruptive Times,” a series of three Centennial-year luncheon discussions with faculty, Board members, and administrators
- Faculty Handbook updated summer 2011, continuing annually
- Senate oversight of General Announcements began summer 2011, continuing annually
- Recommendation that a curricular requirement for upper-level communication in the disciplines will be specified and voted on by Senate in Fall 2014 after appropriate discussion and development by faculty and provision for adequate funding, for implementation beginning Fall 2015

Following this review of the Senate’s accomplishments, McIntosh thanked the departing senators for their service: Randy Batsell, John Casbarian, Marcia Citron, Mikki Hebl, Scott McGill, Bill Parsons, Matteo Pasquali, Robin Sickles, and Yizhi Jane Tao. McIntosh especially thanked Batsell and Casbarian for having served on the Senate since its inception and for the maximum number of years permitted under the Senate Constitution. In addition, Casbarian served as the Convenor of Appeals and Grievances for the past two years and served a number of years on the Senate’s Executive Committee. Batsell chaired the Working Group on Grade Inflation and Academic Honors, served on additional working groups, and both men represented the Senate on important University Committees.

McIntosh recognized and thanked Senate Assistant Sharon Mathews for her work, and she noted that Mathews had just been recognized by Rice University as a “Centennial Star.”

McIntosh then thanked Jane Grande-Allen for her service as Deputy Speaker, stating that she has provided valuable advice throughout the year, as well as facilitated the work of the Senate’s Nominations and Elections Committee by serving as chair. McIntosh stated that it was a privilege to serve with Grande-Allen on the Senate’s leadership team, and she is delighted that Grande-Allen has been elected to a second year as Deputy Speaker. Grande-Allen received a round of applause.
McIntosh announced the individuals who will be new to the Senate for the 2012-2013 year, in addition to one Humanities senator and one Natural Sciences senator still to be appointed:

- Robert Atherholt (Music)
- Gregory Barnett (Music)
- Keith Cooper (Engineering)
- Scott Cutler (NTT-Teaching)
- Mahmoud El-Gamal (Social Sciences)
- Christopher Hight (Architecture)
- Betty Joseph (Humanities)
- Rachel Kimbro (Humanities)
- Jonathan Ludwig (NTT-Teaching)
- Lanny Martin (Social Sciences)

Deborah Harter, former Speaker of the Senate, made a motion that the faculty members officially thank McIntosh for her extraordinary work as Speaker. McIntosh received a hearty round of applause from all assembled.

Deputy Speaker Grande-Allen addressed the faculty, saying that she enjoyed working with McIntosh. She then reviewed the projects that the Senate will address in the coming year:

**Working Groups to Continue:**
- Communication in the Curriculum
- Appeals and Grievances, Promotion and Tenure
- Faculty Salaries
- Research and Scholarship
- NTT Faculty

**Policies and Procedures / Guidelines Pending:**
- Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment Policy Revisions
- Guidelines for Dual Degree Programs

**Some Items already suggested for Senate consideration:**
- Re-form Working Group on Grade Inflation
- Revise statement on academic freedom
- Review sabbatical policy
- Review undergraduate pass/fail policy
- Become involved with Center for Teaching Excellence
- Improve transparency in Rice’s accounting system
- Perhaps form a University Committee for Education
- Anti-plagiarism software
Begin consulting with departments on guidelines for developing an upper level “communication in the discipline” requirement

Grande-Allen also spoke of planning underway for the fourth and final session of “Rice 2032.” McIntosh then asked the faculty to contact their senators if they had additional matters they wished to propose for Senate consideration. McIntosh noted that two former speakers were in the audience, Deborah Harter and Duane Windsor, and she said the faculty owed a collective debt to the past speakers. She stated that the Senate is a relatively new creation which has grown and developed over recent years. She said it has greatly enhanced its communication with the faculty and has strengthened shared governance. McIntosh said that it has been a privilege to work with President Leebron, Provost McLendon, Vice Provost Paula Sanders, and Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson. Finally, she stated that she is happy that the incoming speaker, Carl Caldwell, shares the same ideals, and indeed, was instrumental in the creation of the Faculty Senate. Caldwell received a round of applause from the assembled faculty.

Next, President Leebron addressed the group, stating that it has been an extraordinary couple of years working with McIntosh. In general, he said, he has been impressed with the quality of the people who serve on the Faculty Senate. He said that the individuals listed as those who will be new to the Senate are not unfamiliar; it includes people who really care about the university. He added that trust has developed between the Senate and the administration; they enjoy a strong relationship. Leebron thanked both McIntosh and Grande-Allen. He said that even though the two of them do not agree with him 100% of the time, they have a good process for working through issues. He also thanked Helena Michie and the Working Group on Communication in the Curriculum, and the Working Group on Faculty Retirement. He said that the Senate has enjoyed extraordinary leadership under McIntosh, who again received a round of applause.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Deaths
President Leebron announced the names of faculty members who died during the past year: Edward Holt, Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering; Patrick Thornton, Lecturer, Kinesiology; and William Howell, Herbert A. Autry Professor Emeritus, Psychology.

B. Commencement Instructions
Keith Cooper, Chair of the Marshals Committee, reminded the faculty of the doctoral hooding ceremony to be held at 3:00 p.m., and he predicted that commencement the following morning would be held outdoors. President Leebron said that he was pleased with the students’ choice of Salman Khan, founder of the Khan Academy, as commencement speaker. He described Khan as a young person on an upward trajectory.

VI. FACULTY AWARDS
The group moved to Dore’ Commons for the third annual luncheon hosted by President Leebron and the presentation of awards.

A. TEACHING AWARDS

George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching
Mark P. Embree, Professor, Computational & Applied Mathematics

George R. Brown Awards for Superior Teaching
Michelle R. Hebl, Professor, Psychology
Steven J. Cox, Professor, Computational & Applied Mathematics
Roberta H. Anding, Lecturer, Kinesiology
James M. Tour, Professor, Chemistry
Z. Maria Oden Duffy, Professor in Practice, Bioengineering
Bridget K. Gorman, Associate Professor, Sociology
Alma M. Novotny, Lecturer, Biochemistry & Cell Biology
Paul M. Stevenson, Professor, Physics & Astronomy
Jose F. Aranda, Associate Professor, English

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

Charles Duncan Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
Kurt Stallmann, Associate Professor Composition and Theory, Director of Rice Electroacoustic Music Labs

Presidential Award for Mentoring
Elizabeth Long, Professor, Sociology
David Scott, Professor, Statistics

Sarofim Teaching Award
Christina Keefe, Theater Director and Lecturer, Visual and Dramatic Arts
Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business Award for Excellence in Teaching

MBA for Executives Award for Teaching Excellence –
Karen Nelson, Professor of Accounting

MBA for Professionals Evening Award for Teaching Excellence –
Sebastien Michenaud, Assistant Professor of Finance

MBA for Professionals Weekend Award for Teaching Excellence –
Vikas Mittal, J. Hugh Liedtke Professor of Management (Marketing)

Full-Time MBA Award for Teaching Excellence –
Steve Crawford, Assistant Professor of Accounting

Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence – Prashant Kale, Associate Professor of Strategic Management

Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize
Rachel Kimbro, Assistant Professor, Sociology

GSA Faculty Teaching/Mentoring Award
Royce Carroll, Assistant Professor, Political Science
Sibani Lisa Biswal, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

B. OUTSTANDING COLLEGE ASSOCIATES

Baker College: Jose Narbona, Study of Languages
Brown College: Keith Cooper, Computer Science
Duncan College: Ann Saterbak, Bioengineering
Hanszen College: Andre Droxler, Earth Science
Jones College: David Damanik, Mathematics
Lovett College: Cecilia Clementi, Chemistry
Martel College: Anthony and Michelle Chan, Physics and Astronomy
McMurtry College: None this year

Sid Richardson College: Ken Whitmire, Chemistry

Wiess College: Stan Dodds, Physics and Astronomy

Will Rice College: John Boles, History

VII. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY

Earl Black, Herbert S. Autry Professor in Political Science, 19 yrs.

Darra Keeton, Associate Professor of Visual Arts, 19 yrs.

Carol Quillen, Associate Professor, History, 22 yrs.

Evelyne Datta, Senior Lecturer, Center for the Study of Languages, 25 yrs.

Ronald Parry, Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry and Cell Biology, 34 yrs.

Sarah Burnett, Associate Professor of Psychology, 40 yrs.

Robert L. Patten, Lynette S. Autrey Prof. of Humanities, 43 yrs.

James Hannon, Professor, Physics & Astronomy, 45 yrs.

Ron Soligo, Professor of Economics, 45 yrs.

Following the awards presentation, President Leebron thanked all who attended the plenary session and luncheon, and especially for their efforts towards Rice’s success.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.