Faculty Senate Chair’s Report
20 October 2005

1. Dean’s Council
   a. Senate Resolution on submission of grades.
      This resolution asked for two working days after finals for faculty to finish their
grading and submit grades. Concerns were raised by several groups. While it is true that
the registrar can have grades up quickly, this can only occur if faculty get the grades in on
time. As of Wednesday, 48 hours after the closing time for mid-term grades, there were
52 classes for which faculty had not yet gotten their grades in. In addition, there are other
issues. Other organizations such as financial aid, and those dealing with issues such as
academic probation that need to be able to go through grades to determine and contact
students that are impacted. In the Fall, this needs to be done before the Christmas break.

      There is a subcommittee of Enrollment that is currently examining calendrical
solutions that could ease this problem. Potential solutions are 1) eliminate the Reading
Day, providing the Friday before commencement for grading, then keeping the processor
open till 4pm on Monday; 2) begin the semester a week earlier, and give faculty a week to
finish up grades; 3) split the Finals week over a weekend, providing three days before
commencement. Other calendrical changes are being discussed, although they would
have minimal impact on grade submission.

      Part of the problem is us. Believe it or not, on average in a given semester, the
registrar receives grades for about 100 courses that are submitted in paper form. These all
have to be entered by hand.

   b. The official enrollment looks like it will be around 8900. New counting schemes are being
      used that might show us to be around 9000.

   c. A total of 15 students that were dropped from admission rolls on October 6 will not be
      reinstated. Not too bad.

   d. The Datatel sessions were rewarding. As much as they were information-gathering for
      Datatel, they were also an opportunity to discuss our current operating policies. Look for
some “common sense” improvements. An assessment will be generated by Datatel that
will provide us with input on how our practices mesh with their software. The registrar
appeared open to changing how we do things if it would make things work better.

   e. With regards to The Budget:
      - the $200,000 in Academic Affairs for equipment/furnishings is being held back for now
      - the $214,000 remaining in capital renewal and maintenance is being held back as well
      - there is a hiring freeze. All vacancies are to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
      - Try to identify opportunities to boost enrollment in Spring and Summer terms
      - Hold on implementation of the web-based Risk Assessment initiative ($64,000)