

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
April 10, 2008
Justin Board Room, Kelly Alumni Center

Minutes

Senators present

Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Mark Bloom, Art Busbey, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Cynthia Chapa, Lyn Dart, Connie de Veer, Ze-Li Dou, Sally Fortenberry, Misha Galaganov, Diane Hawley, Gina Hill, Fran Huckaby, Nadia Lahutsky, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Linda Moore, Dianna McFarland, Ranjan Muttiah, Sheri Neill, Marie Schein, John Thompson, David Vanderwerken, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Barbara Wood, Melissa Young-Schroeder, Stu Youngblood

Senators excused

Bob Akin, Jennifer Engler, Blaise Ferrandino, Lyn Flahive, Cara Jacocks, John Lovett, Ed McNertney, Helen Morrison, Anna Petursdottir, Paul Schrodt, Michael Skinner, Greg Stephens, Becky Taylor, Maggie Thomas,

Senators absent

John Breyer, David Cross

Senators resigned

John Breyer

Guests

Nowell Donovan (Provost), Larry Kitchens (Chair Elect – Staff Assembly), Janine Kraus (University Advancement – Annual Fund), Ray Brown (Dean of Admissions), Kenneth Janak (TCU Director of Budget & Financial Planning), George Gilbert (TCU Department of Mathematics), Justin Brown (Student Government Association), Michelle Anderson (Skiff)

Chair Stu Youngblood called the meeting to order at 3:35.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the February, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting were approved with the following changes:

Add Connie de Veer, Ze-Lie Dou, and Michael Skinner to “Senators Present.” Change “Newbern” to “McFarland” within “Senators Present.”

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss or report.

New Business

New Business

1. Update on TCU Annual Fund (Larry Kitchens (Staff Assembly – Chair Elect), Janine Kraus (University Advancement – Annual Fund)

As part of the announcements, Larry Kitchens and Janine Krause presented information pertaining to the TCU Annual Fund. He challenged the TCU faculty to raise more funds than the staff at TCU. Last year the Faculty/Staff Annual Fund raised \$302,000 with a 65% participation rate. She provided an overview of the areas the fund supports and stressed the amount donated is not the most important aspect, but the percentage of faculty and staff that donates. The percentage is used in the development process as it indicates the faculty/staff’s level of commitment to the university. The Capital Campaign has raised \$155 million as to date.

2. Update on Tenure, Promotion, & Grievance Committee Draft Policy Report (Senator Dianna McFarland)

Senator McFarland provided an update on the Tenure, Promotion, & Grievance Committee Draft Policy. She indicated members of the Faculty Senate Tenure, Promotion, & Grievance Committee met with the Provost Council this week to update the Council and to receive feedback. A discussion of the policy was held during the Faculty Senate meeting. A question was raised as to what happens if there is a “yes” on the substantive review at the department and college level and a “no” at the Provost level. The response was that the current and proposed policies do not allow an appeal. Senators raised the question whether the new policy should allow an appeal if the Provost denies tenure. Another question was asked pertaining to whether there is value of inviting outside experts to review the substantive material at different levels of the process. A suggestion was offered via the discussion that it would be helpful to work from the flow chart and subsequently write the narrative and appendices. Provost Donovan stated tenure policies are at times a thorny issue, especially in light of differences in policies by colleges and departments. His recommendation was to focus on how the grievance policy can be simple, fast, and fair. The Tenure, Promotion, & Grievance Committee members will take into consideration the questions and comments of the Senators and continue to refine the draft policy, with the intent of bringing it to the Faculty Senate for approval at the May Faculty Senate meeting.

3. Update on Finance and Administration (Kenneth Janak, Director, TCU Budget and Financial Planning)

Mr. Janak provided an overview of the TCU budgeting process and timetables. The University wide financial model is on a 5-year plan and he expressed the financial forecast for TCU remains positive. There will be an 8.4% increase in tuition to \$26,900 and 18% increase in financial aid for students for the 2008-2009 academic year.

4. Update on TCU Admissions (Ray Brown, TCU Dean of Admissions)

Dean Brown provided an overview of the demographic statistical summary of applicants for the 2008-2009 academic year. In some geographic areas, the number of applications has increased while others have decreased. For example, applicants from Austin are up 21% while Dallas applicants are down 4% to date. In the secondary market (contiguous states), applications are down but applicants from distant states are up. Applications from the Chicago area have increased. TCU received the first application from a Samoan student. Applicants from Hawaii increased also. The one area of concern is the total number of deposits to date, which is lower than the previous year. He attributed this to the slowing of the economy. Overall, Dean Brown expressed optimism about the recruiting class for the fall 2008 semester.

5. Report on Excused Absence Policy (George Gilbert, Chair of Intercollegiate Athletics Committee)

The results of a survey by Rhonda Hatcher, (TCU's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative) indicated some TCU athletes were not allowed to make up work missed due to university sponsored events. The TCU Handbook for Faculty & Staff indicates when a student is absent to represent the University, then an Official University Absence may be granted by the Campus Life Office. According to the Handbook, "Faculty are required to permit students to make up work missed because of Official University Absences." He stated this is not completely an athletic issue.

He indicated 48 students responded to the survey. Many students did not have any problems, although some TCU athletes were not able to make up exams, quizzes, or labs. Several were required to make up the work the day they arrived on campus. Others indicated the make-up exams were more difficult or in a different format such as an all essay exam. Some faculty required all make-up exams to be taken at end of semester.

Senators discussed the above issues and it was agreed upon that new faculty orientation is a starting point, since this is an educational issue. One question arose as to whether students can go to an independent body to voice a complaint. Another question was raised as to the criteria Campus Life uses to approve an Official University Absence. It was suggested that Senators go back to their units and discuss this issue. Furthermore, Senators recommended the Faculty Senate Student Relations Committee include this issue as a charge for the 2008-2009 academic year.

6. Remarks by Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan's remarks were brief due to time constraints. He asked, "How can you make the Faculty Senate more relevant?" He provided one example related to the make-up policy. He recommended Senators make a statement to all faculty and stress the compliance of the policy. A committee and report are not necessary, but simply the need for reinforcing the current policy. He urged Senators to weigh in on relevant issues and make statements. He also commented on the TCU Retake Policy and stated it should be revised in the best interest of students and the new policy should be well publicized.

Announcements

1. TCU Capital Campaign Challenge (Larry Kitchens, Chair Elect of Staff Assembly)
2. TR Information Security Services and TCU Police will be presenting information on identity theft prevention at a brown bag on Wednesday April 23 from noon to 1pm in the Student Center room 207 (Barbara McClellan, Information Security Engineer, TCU Technology Resources)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.