

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
4 December 2008
3:30 – 5:00 PM
The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004

Minutes

Senators present

Bob Akin, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Cynthia Chapa, Jason Clark-Miller, David Cross, Rebecca Dority, Ze-Li Dou, Blaise Ferrandino, Lyn Flahive, Sally Fortenberry, Greg Friedman, Misha Galaganov, Charles Hannon, Diane Hawley, Fran Huckaby, Suzy Lockwood, Till Meyn, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Sheri Neill, Anna Petursdottir, Jan Quesada, Claire Sanders, Marie Schein, Paul Schrod, Melissa Sherrod, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Kay Stevens, Maggie Thomas, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood, Stu Youngblood

Senators excused

Jesus Castro-Balbi, Gina Jarman Hill, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Steve Mann, Darren Middleton, Linda Moore, Don Nichols

Senators absent

Agenda

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Welcome guests

Guests included Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Brian Gutierrez (Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration), Kenneth Janak, (Director of Budget and Financial Planning), Pat Miller (TCU Registrar), Danny Morrison (TCU Director of Athletics), Gary Patterson (TCU Football Head Coach), Kimmy Daycock (TCU Skiff Reporter)

Approval of minutes of November 6, 2008

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business

1. Motions from Academic Excellence Committee – Course Retake Policy (Senator Blaise Ferrandino)

The following motion from the Academic Excellence Committee (AEC) was discussed.

A course may be retaken only if any and all grades achieved previously in the same course were C+ or lower. A course in which a grade of B – or above was earned may not be repeated for a grade.

Senator Blaise Ferrandino reviewed the previous course retake motions put forth by the AEC. He discussed the rationale used for choosing a C+ rather than a B-. One rationale is the letter grade of “B” represents a good grade and is good enough. He stated that College and departmental policies vary at TCU, and provided the example that some TCU departments want students to retake a grade of C. The above proposed policy is more generous than some universities. Most “B” grades are not retaken at TCU. Discussion was held and Senators presented pros and cons of the new policy. A straw vote was taken and the discussion was tabled.

New Business

1. **Update on TCU Bowl Game (Danny Morrison, TCU Director of Athletics & Gary Patterson, TCU Football Head Coach)**

The TCU football team is being considered by four different bowls but the most likely bowl is the December 23rd Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego. This bowl is preferred since it will not interrupt the final exams of participating students. Coach Patterson stated that academics continue to be a priority for the football program and the graduation rate is among the best in the nation. He stated he is committed to fulfilling the promise he makes to student athletes, which is they will graduate from TCU. Coach Patterson expressed his appreciation to all faculty for their dedication to scholarship and students at TCU.

2. **TCU Budget Update (Brian Gutierrez, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and Kenneth Janak, Director of Budget and Financial Planning)**

Vice Chancellor Gutierrez stated some universities are taking mid-year reductions but does not anticipate TCU to do the same. He posed the question, "How can TCU maintain the momentum and keep the wind in our sails, in light of the economic downturn?" He stated the majority of capital projects are moving forward in order to maintain the momentum. The TCU endowment is among the top sixty largest endowments. A fund (\$350,000) has been established for students who may have to leave TCU due to financial difficulties. More students are experiencing financial difficulties and visiting the TCU Financial Aid office. The Chancellor wants to maintain merit raises even during the recession. An amount of \$500,000 has been set aside to increase the wages of the lowest paid workers at TCU and for student assistants as the minimum wage increases to \$7.25. There will be an increase in the budgets of TCU Admissions, Fundraising, and Marketing. Overall, there will be a \$1.9 million reduction in the budget but an increase in financial aid.

3. Green Challenge to Faculty Senate Committees (Senator Suzy Lockwood)

The following motion was put forth by Senator Lockwood:

Whereas TCU and the Faculty Senate are making efforts to think globally and act locally, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate has pledged to, and should model green behavior, and

Whereas the cost of printing the Faculty/Staff Handbook is \$9400.00 yearly,

The Faculty Governance Committee moves that the Faculty/Staff Handbook be an exclusively electronic document available on the TCU webpage linked to as many sites as necessary to make the information available to all faculty.

A discussion was held and the motion passed with only one dissenting vote.

4. Proposed Revisions of Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws (Senator Suzy Lockwood)

Senator Lockwood displayed and discussed the proposed revisions of the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws and asked for discussion. Senator Bedford commented he found several grammatical edits and would forward each to Senator Lockwood. The revisions were passed unanimously.

Recess for Refreshments and Merrymaking (postponed until end of meeting)

5. Remarks from TCU Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan indicated the Dean searches are progressing as planned. He stated there would be an 8% cut from the academic budgets. This will be an exercise of slimming instead of amputation due to having possible excess in areas such as travel and supplies. One of the biggest concerns is the TCU Library and Technology Resources budgets. The Provost stated he is confident his office will be able to secure additional funds to meet the proposed increases in both budgets. He stated the Climate Change Curriculum Committee has been created to address the mandate of integrating concepts of sustainability into the TCU curriculum. The mandate is a result of TCU signing the University and Colleges President's Climate Commitment. He asked if two Christmas trees on campus are necessary and commented on the nostalgia that his students reported in regard to the original Christmas tree in front of Sadler as compared to the tree within the Commons. He expressed his holiday greetings to all faculty.

6. Report on Undergraduates Grading Undergraduates Survey (Senator Keith Whitworth)

The report was tabled to allow time for refreshments.

7. Open Forum

The Open Forum was tabled to allow time for refreshments.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 for refreshments.