

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
5 February 2009
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, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Cynthia Chapa, Rebecca Dority, Gina Jarman Hill, Blaise Ferrandino, Lyn Flahive, Sally Fortenberry, Misha Galaganov, Diane Hawley, Fran Huckaby, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Till Meyn, Sheri Neill, Don Nichols, Anna Petursdottir, Claire Sanders, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodtt, Melissa Sherrod, Michael Skinner, Alan Shorter, Kay Stevens, Maggie Thomas, Keith Whitworth, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood, Stu Youngblood

Senators excused

Jason Clark-Miller, David Cross, Ze-Li Dou, Greg Friedman, Charles Hannon, Darren Middleton, Linda Moore, Jan Quesada, Dan Williams

Senators absent

Melissa Sherrod

Agenda

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

Welcome guests

Guests included Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Myra Mills, Viora Bojku, Justin Brown (TCU Student Government Association).

Approval of minutes of December 4, 2008

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. TCU Hunger Week and Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (Ellen Schwaller)

Ellen Schwaller (Social Justice Coordinator) and Adam Gamwell (Program Coordinator) of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, provided an overview of services and discussed the TCU Hunger Week. They reported there are 15 student religious organizations and 5 full-time campus ministers. Pastoral care is offered in a confidential matter and is open to everyone. Each month, an ecumenical chapel service is offered. Mr. Gamwell coordinates Interfaith and Spiritual Awareness, which promotes communication between faiths. The TCU Hunger Week was established by Andy Fort (Religion Department) twenty-seven years ago. Two fundraisers associated with the TCU Hunger Week are a cookbook and an auction. To submit a recipe for the cookbook, please contact cookbook@tcu.edu. Andy Fort donates a meal each year for the auction and the highest bidder is prepared a meal. More information is available at <http://www.hunger.tcu.edu>.

2. TCU Residential Services, Living Learning Programs (Dave Cooper, TCU Associate Director of Residence Life)

The Dave Cooper reported this is the second year of Living Learning Communities. Considerable evidence has been found that the impact of faculty on student norms, attitudes, as well as faculty members' impact as role models, is enhanced when student-faculty interactions extend beyond the formal classroom setting. (Terenzini and Pascarella). The Honors Living Learning Community has been the staple of this community. The theme is "live . learn . grow." He stressed the importance of faculty involvement and the opportunities to interact with the Living Learning Communities. There are two types of living learning communities: Freshman Interest Groups and Upper Class Theme Housing. The Freshman Interest Groups consists of Leadership 1.0, Performing Arts, Pre-Health (tentative), Spirit and Traditions, Business, Education, Honors House, Service House, and WISH. The Upper Class Theme Housing consists of Create your own LLC, Green House, Health and Wellness, Honors House, Language and International House, and Leadership 2.0. The goals of the Living Learning Communities are:

- Increased...
 - cognitive skills
 - peer to peer interactions
 - interactions with faculty
 - academic performance
 - satisfaction level with first-year experience
- Academic support
- Exposure to different forms of diversity

- Supportive and open living environments
- Development of the whole student
- Intellectual growth
- Seamless learning environment (if linked)

The faculty campus partner role encourages student involvement and specifically addresses:

- Advise and engage students within LLC through mentorship, goal-setting meetings, etc.
- Assist in the planning and implementation of events to support respective offices and departments
- Incorporate your department initiatives and programs into the LLC.
- Attend additional LLC programs/events such as community dinners or lunches, educational programs, etc.
- Collaborate with the RA and Hall Directors on programming and campus events
- Recruit students for future communities

Mr. Cooper recommended <http://www.rlh.tcu.edu/LLC.htm> for additional information.

3. TCU Wellness Program (Senator Suzy Lockwood)

Senator Suzy Lockwood discussed the new TCU Wellness Program titled, *U Taking Care of U*. The goal of the program is for the TCU community to be recognized as a culture that promotes the health and well-being of all its members.

The mission of the TCU Wellness Committee is *to educate, support, and empower faculty, staff, dependents, and retirees to improve and maintain their overall health and well-being through healthy lifestyle choices and to create a culture of wellness throughout the TCU community.*

There will be monthly themes, programs, events, and challenges. In January, everyone received a copy of the *Wellness Program Calendar* for 2009. There is a quick reference guide to monthly activities. Programs are listed in the HR Helps Guide, HR Website calendar, and promotional emails. There will be one or more events per month. Senator Lockwood stated by focusing on our health, there is a potential for reducing TCU health care costs, which is cost savings for faculty. Steve Kintigh and Pat Jolley are co-chairing the program. More information can be found at <http://www.wellness.tcu.edu>.

4. TCU Honors College (Peggy Watson, Honors College Program Director and Nowell Donovan, Provost)

Provost Donovan provided a visual presentation pertaining to the new TCU John V. Roach Honors College. He stated he wanted to present this announcement and information first to faculty prior to announcing it publically. The Honors Program was founded in 1962 and admission has been primarily been through invitation. The Honors Program includes the top 8% of students entering TCU. As of October 2008, there were 790 students within the program. TCU is expanding the mission of the Honors Program in the following areas:

1. Residence – new College on first floor of the Scharbauer Hall, which is being built
2. Points of entry – Sophomore and Junior students become Associate Honors Scholars
3. A Creative Community – Expanding the focus of intellectual activity

The Honors Program Frog Camp in London is one example of a creative community and expanding the focus of intellectual activity.

The University Debating Chamber will also be located on the first floor of Sharbaeur Hall and will include:

1. Endowed Conversations
2. Student and Professor Debates
3. Greek Arguments

There is tremendous excitement associated with the University Debating Chamber, and it is predicted to become the center for academic conversations and debates on campus.

Peggy Watson (Honors College Program Director) provided a visual presentation regarding the Honors College and also reiterated the excitement and potential surrounding the new College. She indicated the program is highly selective and includes the Chancellor, Provost, and Dean Scholarship recipients. Currently, the program only invites first-year students and there are 790 participants. Honors students will be housed in Milton Daniel next year. The Honors College reflects the composition of the campus in regard to Greek (fraternity and sorority) students (34%) and there are football, volleyball, diving, and equestrian student-athletes. The program's mission statement is:

To challenge and support highly motivated students to excel in an enhanced curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, understanding world cultures, an appreciation for creative activities and the connection of ideas across disciplines.

Dr. Watson stated the goal of reimagining the mission of the Honors College to include the following:

- Continue emphasis on small, discussion-based classes
- Increase focus on engagement with world cultures (Cultural Visions, Cultural Routes)
- Encourage critical inquiry in multiple aspects of students' lives (Community and Residential)
- Offer opportunities for research and creative activities to high-achieving juniors and seniors throughout campus

She envisions that the Honors College will make TCU the "destination of choice" for high achieving students. An Honors College Faculty Fellows program will be initiated if funds are available in the near future. Faculty will rotate through the Honors College and teach one or more classes and receive a multi-year appointment to the Honors College.

5. Update on Faculty Senate Nominations (Chair Sheri Neill)

Chair Neill encouraged members of the Faculty Senate to run for offices for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for 2009-2010.

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

Senator Keith Whitworth reported the findings of the online survey administered in November of 2008 pertaining to undergraduates grading undergraduates. The issue was raised during the new Faculty Senate Open Forum. The Forum allows Senators five minutes to discuss topics that their constituents submit. The following were the results from 100 TCU faculty respondents.

Rate your awareness of the practice of TCU undergraduates grading undergraduates.

Not at all aware:	57.4 %
Somewhat aware:	21.8 %
Aware:	14.9 %
Fully aware:	5.9 %

Rate your level of concern about the practice of TCU undergraduates grading undergraduates.

Not at all concerned	26.0 %
Somewhat concerned	23.0 %
Concerned	30.0 %
Very Concerned	21.0 %

How important is it to you that the TCU Faculty Senate address this issue?

Not at all important	26.0 %
Somewhat important	28.0 %
Important	32.0 %
Very important	14.0 %

The survey included two open-ended questions and there were a variety of response for each.

If you are aware of this practice, briefly describe the type of grading practice you know about (do not include names).

Are there any other issues you would like for the TCU Faculty Senate to address? If so, please provide a brief explanation. Your Senate representative will contact you to discuss the issue(s) in further detail in consideration of bringing the issue(s) to the Faculty Senate Open Forum.

Upon analysis of the results of the survey, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee determined the issue would be explored within the Faculty Senate committees.

7. Remarks from Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan reported a committee has been formed to implement ideas generated from the TCU Gender Report. Rhonda Keene (Rankin Professor of Nursing) will chair the committee with the charge of ensuring there is a level playing field on the TCU campus. Provost Donovan has created a screen saver titled, *Points of Pride*, and can be acquired by contacting his office or Art Busbey (Faculty Senate Chair Elect). The screen saver highlights TCU students who have

remarkable achievements that provide a sense of pride for the TCU community. Provost Donovan announced the TCU Climate Commitment Curriculum Committee (CCCC) that will investigate and recommend a plan of how to integrate the concepts of climate neutrality and sustainability into the TCU curriculum for all students. Keith Whitworth will chair the committee. There is a fervent conversation among Deans regarding the qualifications to be on the Dean's List. The number of students who qualify for the Dean's List has steadily increased, potentially due to grade inflation. A web page dedicated to sustainability at TCU is being developed. A discussion is being held pertaining to sabbaticals. What are the rights and responsibilities of faculty on sabbatical? Provost Donovan emphasized that faculty should not have administrative duties while on sabbatical, with the exception of participating in very important decisions such as voting on tenure. Provost Donovan expressed that several faculty, who were nominated for the Dean's Award for Teaching and Creativity, did not attend the December 2008 TCU Commencement. The individuals did not notify him they would not be in attendance. Their absence created an awkward moment of silence as the Provost looked for them only to find they were not in attendance. He asked the Faculty Senate to consider addressing this issue as it reflects poorly on the TCU faculty.

8. Open Forum

Senator David Bedford discussed current trends and possible futures in higher education and how TCU can formulate responses to the rapidly changing academic environment.

Announcements

Justin Brown, (Student Government Association, Student Relations), announced the *Improve TCU* event to be held February 18, 2009. Suggestion boxes will be located outside in the TCU Commons and TCU Library mall area. Faculty are encouraged to wear ribbons (provided by SGA) to promote the event. The goal of the event is to collect suggestions on how to improve TCU.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02.