

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting

2 October 2008

3:30 – 5:00 PM

The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004

Minutes

Senators present

Bob Akin, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Cynthia Chapa, Jason Clark-Miller, David Cross, Rebecca Dority, Ze-Li Dou, Blaise Ferrandino, Sally Fortenberry, Greg Friedman, Misha Galaganov, Charles Hannon, Diane Hawley, Fran Huckaby, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Till Meyn, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Linda Moore, Sheri Neill, Anna Petursdottir, Jan Quesada, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodt, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Kay Stevens, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood, Stu Youngblood

Senators excused

Chip Burns, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Gina Jarman Hill, Cara Jacocks, Steve Mann, Darren Middleton, Claire Sanders, Maggie Thomas

Senators absent

Tony Burgess, Lyn Flahive, Don Nichols, Melissa Sherrod

Agenda

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Welcome guests

Guests included Provost Nowell Donovan, (Carlton Alexander, Amber Harris, Tony Harrell-MacNeil, Priscilla Morrison, Bennett Parson, Candace Ruocco, Cody Simmonds – Student Government Association), Kimmy Daycock (TCU Skiff Reporter), Gayle Wilkins, Graduate Nursing Student

Approval of minutes of September 4, 2008

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business

New Business

1. Update on TCU Library (June Koelker, Dean of TCU Mary Couts Burnett Library)

The TCU Library is open 24 hours except for Friday and Saturday. A library study indicated there were over 100 students in the library at 1:00 a.m., approximately 50 at 3:00 a.m., and 20 at dawn. Baylor, SMU, UNT, and UTA libraries are open 24 hours. A donor provided the funding to enable a cost estimate study for an addition/expansion of the library. There is a new trend of using integrated materials and gaming/educational applications of software. There has been a double digit increases in journal prices. The library is exploring a digital repository to store such items as data sets and academic oriented streaming video.

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

Candace Ruocco, (SGA Academic Affairs Committee Chair), reported the TCU Student Government Association endorsed at their last meeting the proposed Undergraduate Course Retake Policies set forth by the Faculty Senate Academic Excellence Committee.

Motion 1 – The Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee, in cooperation with the Academic Excellence Committee, will review the GPA requirements for maintaining eligibility for scholarships and other forms of financial assistance. Special consideration should be given to evaluating each trailing semester's GPA for maintaining eligibility as opposed to the current policy of considering the cumulative GPA.

The intent of the motion is to maintain more flexibility in determining scholarship and other forms of financial assistance. Current, the policy is based upon a student's cumulative GPA, and a student must appeal if the GPA is below 3.0.

A discussion ensued regarding how to ensure the policy includes the spirit of flexibility and fairness. The motion was amended as follows:

“The Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee, in cooperation with the

Academic Excellence Committee, will review the GPA requirements for maintaining eligibility for scholarships and other forms of financial assistance. In the spirit of flexibility and fairness, special consideration should be given to evaluating each trailing semester's GPA, as well as the current policy of considering cumulative GPA for maintaining eligibility."

In addition, the Senate recommends that there should be a review of the current policy whereby a 3.00 GPA is required for the continuation of Academic scholarship eligibility in the first year and then increases to the 3.25 GPA level in succeeding years."

Motion 2 – Policies regulating the number of times a course may be retaken are the province of the college offering the course. In the case of a course offered by one unit, which is required in the major degree plan of another, the Deans of the respective units, in cooperation with the Provost, will reach an agreement on policy.

The current TCU course retake policy does not have a limit on the number of times a course can be retaken. The majority of courses are retaken only once. There are varying policies across Colleges as to retaking courses. The motion allows Colleges to institute a course retake policy.

Registrar Pat Miller stated there are approximately four courses that are retaken but the total number of courses retaken each semester is insignificant. The motion was passed as proposed.

Motion 3 – GPA for a course will be calculated as the average of grades achieved for each time the course was taken.

It was reported that professional graduate schools average grades. Registrar Pat Miller stated the current TCU policy is much more beneficial and more humane. He indicated he meets with a lot of students who need to repair their GPA, which the current policy helps.

A discussion ensued as to what policy is in the best interest of students.

3. Faculty Senate Open Forum

Chair Neill explained the Open Forum was developed to allow the Senators to bring issues directly to the floor of the Faculty Senate and provide 5 minutes for presentation and discussion. A total of 30 minutes will be allowed for the Open Forum. At the end of the Open Forum, the Senators will rank order the issues by importance. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will address the top issues by taking action as soon as possible or sending the issue to the appropriate Faculty Senate committee. The Open Forum will allow the Faculty Senate to address

pertinent issues quickly and express the “sense of the Senate” as appropriate.

Senator David Bedford raised the issue of instituting a Reader’s Club for students in which they would read and discuss the same book for the semester or year. Faculty would provide input.

He raised the issue of the quality of the food at the TCU Market Square. He reported the food is not as good as it should be and the processing time to get food is short.

He raised the issue of the need for a requirement of 6 hours of foreign language within the TCU Core Curriculum.

Senator Till Meyn raised the issue of how green is TCU. A constituent submitted the following questions.

Why are rooms over air-conditioned and we can’t open windows?

How can departments recycle bottles and cans?

Is all of our paper recycled?

How can we make campus more pedestrian?

Can we get a TCU Purple Bike for a guest lecturer?

On behalf of a constituent, Senator Keith Whitworth raised the issue of undergraduate students grading other undergraduate students.

The vote by the Senators indicated “greening TCU” and “undergraduates grading undergraduates” were the most important issues for the Faculty Senate to address.

4. Greetings from TCU Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan provided general remarks.

Announcements

1. Honor Code (Senate Chair Sheri Neill)

Chair Neill reported that Senators Blaise Farrandino and David Bedford were appointed to the Honor Code Task Force.

2. TCU Theme Semester (Senator Keith Whitworth)

Senator Whitworth encouraged Senators to participate in the *Think Purple, Live Green* theme semester (www.themesemester.tcu.edu)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53.