

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, 1 April 2010
3:30 - 5:00 PM

The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004

Senators Present

Bob Akin, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Jason Clark-Miller, Ze-Li Dou, Blaise Ferrandino, Sally Fortenberry, Greg Friedman, Misha Galaganov, Dianne Hawley, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Carrie Leverenz, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Linda Moore, Sheri Neill, Hylda Nugent, Steve Palko, Anna Petursdottir, Jan Quesada, Claire Sanders, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodt, Melissa Sherrod, Kay Stevens, Maggie Thomas, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood

Senators Excused

Jodi Campbell, Rebecca Dority, Michael Sawey, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner

Senators Absent

Lynn Flahive, Charles Hannon, Artemis Moon, Don Nichols, Julie O'Neil

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

Welcome guests

Guests included Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Catherine Wehlburg (Assistant Provost of Institutional Effectiveness), Dean Mary Patton (TCU College of Education), Janine Kraus (Director of Annual Giving), Chris Uchacz (Director of Athletic Academic Services), David Sandell (Department of Sociology & Anthropology), Zach Femal (Faculty Evaluation Committee).

Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2010

The March 4, 2010 minutes were approved with the following revision:

“Senator Ferrandino recommended the Academic Excellence Committee research how other universities address finals and report the findings at a Faculty Senate meeting in the fall semester.”

The above was edited to read as follows:

“The Faculty Senate Academic Excellence Committee will inquire of the TCU Registrar as to his knowledge of models in use at other universities.”

Old Business

None

New Business

Update on TCU College of Education - Dean Mary Patton

Dean Patton provided an overview of the TCU College of Education. She reported that the Texas Education Agency reaccredited the College and received 12 accommodations in areas such as selectivity in admissions and field-based settings. She indicated that normally 100% of the students find teaching positions. The College received a Certificate of Distinction in Reading, one of only six in the nation to receive the award.

TCU Faculty/Staff Annual Campaign - Janine Kraus (Director of Annual Giving)

Ms. Kraus discussed the decision to “go green” by eliminating 1500 packets that would normally be delivered for the TCU Faculty/Staff Annual Campaign. Faculty Senate Chair Art Busbey and Staff Assembly Chair Angela Kaufman are serving as chairs of the campaign. Sixty-eight percent of faculty and staff participated in the campaign last year, which is one of the highest percentages in the nation. She emphasized that participation in the campaign is more important than the donation amount. Every single gift counts! The deadline to donate is April 23.

Update on TCU Athletic Academics - Chris Uchacz (Director of Athletic Academic Services)

Mr. Uchacz discussed academic performance among TCU student athletes. The cumulative GPA is 2.975, which is a record high. He reported the academic performance of the student athletes is “in the best shape we have been in a long time.” The common goal is to graduate student athletes. He indicated the TCU faculty is the “big part of my team,” and thanked all faculty for their participation.

Tenure, Promotion, & Grievance Committee Status Report – Senator Dan Williams

Senator Williams (Tenure, Promotion, & Grievance Committee Chair) provided the annual committee report. The committee focused on two specific charges. The Faculty Appeal Policy was shepherded through the approval process and becomes effective in April 2010. The committee investigated each College’s Professor of Professional Practice (PPP) policy to determine the similarities and differences of the policies. The findings indicated each College has different PPP policies based on how PPP’s are used in the College. Most Colleges do not include Instructors in their PPP policies. The committee’s findings will be forwarded to the Provost Council. Provost Donovan stated the Council will examine what can be standardized within the diverse policies.

Remarks from Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan addressed the issue of online teaching evaluations. He stressed the importance of evaluating teaching and indicated the numerous stakeholders as being students, faculty, TCU, and accrediting agencies. The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) was not intended to be used in the adjudication process of pay raises, but is now being used for this purpose. He listed student concerns of SPOT as:

- a. Is anonymity guaranteed?
- b. Does anyone read the evaluations
- c. Will anything be done with the results?
- d. Not enough time provided by faculty to complete the evaluation.
- e. How does an evaluation at the end of the course help me?

Faculty concerns are:

- a. How authentic are the results?
- b. Will students get personal and lie?
- c. Survey results are not returned in a timely fashion.

SPOT evaluations are used to determine:

- a. teaching component of merit award
- b. tenure assessment
- c. tenure and promotion
- d. awards

It is anticipated that the SPOT online response rate will drop 70 – 45% and the scores will decline by 2 or 3 decimal points.

He stated we must have conversations about the online version of SPOT to allay concerns. Should we offer inducements to students to participate online? Should we change the grading scale from “4” to “5 or 6?” Should we recast the questions?

The benefits of the online version include:

- a. Questions can be customized
- b. Questions can be asked by the department and instructor
- c. Questions can be asked that you really want answers for
- d. Questions can be created to simplify the assessment challenge

Provost Donovan reiterated the need for conversations about the SPOT issues.

Announcements

1. Pay Raise Notices

Senator Sheri Neill announced that on April 15th, faculty could go online to determine the amount of their pay raises. Individual letters will not be mailed.

2. Holocaust Museum

Senator Arnie Barkman announced the TCU Hillel will again present its Holocaust Museum in rooms C and D of the Brown Lupton University Union Ballroom on Monday April 12 (10am to 8pm), Tuesday April 13 (10am to 8pm) and Wednesday April 14 (10am to 4pm). This is the 3rd year that Hillel will sponsor this event. It has been very well received in the past, and this year additional exhibits are planned. Everyone is welcome; there is no admission fee or request for donations. Free parking is available in the visitor lot across from the Brown Lupton University Union on Stadium Drive just north of Berry Street and east of the football stadium. For any questions or further information, please contact Arnie Barkman, faculty advisor, at 817-257-7553.

3. Faculty Senate Elections

Senator Till Meyn announced there are still vacancies to fill for Faculty Senate positions and elections will be held during the month of April. Please contact Senator Meyn at 817-257-5067 for nomination of candidates.

4. Faculty Senate Reception Hosted by Chancellor and Mrs. Boschini

Chair Busbey reminded Senators to RSVP to the April 13th reception at the Boshini’s residence to be held from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.