

**TCU Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, 4 March 2010**  
**3:30 - 5:00 PM**  
**The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004**

**Senators Present**

Bob Akin, 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, Charles Hannon, Dianne Hawley, Carrie Leverenz, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Linda Moore, Sheri Neill, Hylda Nugent, Julie O'Neil, Jan Quesada, Claire Sanders, Michael Sawey, Marie Schein, Paul Schrod, Melissa Sherrod, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Kay Stevens, Keith Whitworth, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood

**Senators Excused**

Arnie Barkman, Jodi Campbell, Rebecca Dority, Lynn Flahive, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Ed McNertney, Don Nichols, Anna Petursdottir, Dan Williams

**Senators Absent**

Charles Hannon, Artemis Moon, Steve Palko, Maggie Thomas,

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m.

**Welcome guests**

Guests included Provost Nowell Donovan, Chris Del Conte (TCU Athletic Director), Andy Fort (TCU Department of Religion), Judy Groulx (University Evaluation Committee), Catherine Wehlburg (Director of TCU Assessment & Quality Enhancement) and Pat Miller (TCU Registrar).

**Approval of Minutes**

The March 4, 2010 minutes were approved as submitted.

**Old Business**

1. Discussion of finals timing and rescheduling finals (deferred to end of meeting)

**New Business****1. Greetings from Chris Del Conte (TCU Athletic Director)**

Athletic Director Conte shared information about his personal and family background. He has been at TCU for five months and sports played an important role in his life. He emphasized that sports are a tool to earn a degree, and that TCU athletics and academics go hand-in-hand. His philosophy embodies excelling in the classroom and on the field. He asked the Senators, "What do you want me to bring to you the next time I speak?" He fielded questions regarding the scheduling of games, budget, make-up exams, facilities, and strategic vision.

## **2. Update on Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship (Linda Moore and Andy Fort)**

Senator Moore and Dr. Fort provided the history of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship. The following is excerpted from the scholarship brochure.

“In the summer of 1981, Dr. Don Jackson (Political Science) proposed to Dr. Bob Frye (English) to consider his idea of creating a scholarship in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr., to enable minority students to attend TCU who otherwise would likely not be able to do so. During the fall of 1981, they worked together to create interest in this endeavor, initially among other faculty and administrators, and then carefully went through the necessary channels to get this scholarship approved. Following its approval, it was agreed that Dr. Frye make the formal announcement of this new scholarship in his Honors Banquet address on April 15, 1982. The original criteria for applicants were being a minority person, having a demonstrable need, and being willing to work in some field of public service (medicine, nursing, education, government service, and so on). The first scholarships were awarded in the spring of 1983 and were covered by Channel 11 television news. The current focus of the scholarship contributions has been extended to include all who wish to keep Martin Luther King’s Dream alive – faculty, administrators, staff, as well as alumni. The scholarship is currently open to all students. Preferences will be given to students who are members of groups traditionally under-represented at TCU, including racial and ethnic minorities and first-generation college students (i.e. those whose parent or parents did not graduate from college). The Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship has awarded over \$175,000 to over 75 deserving students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds during the past 27 years. The primary criteria for selection are demonstrated financial need and an expressed commitment to a career in service to humanity.”

Senators were encouraged to share the scholarship information with students, contribute financially, and be part of the scholarship committee. The scholarship is not endowed.

## **3. Update on Neeley School of Business (Bill Moncrief, Senior Associate Dean)**

Dean Moncrief was unable to attend.

## **4. Faculty Governance Committee (Suzy Lockwood)**

Senator Lockwood presented the following change to the *Faculty Senate Handbook*.

1. Distribute by e-mail to all faculty and members of TCU’s administration agenda for any Faculty Assembly or other special meeting.

The word, “the” was deleted and the word, “any” was added.

Senator Lockwood presented the following changes to the BYLAWS OF THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY AND FACULTY SENATE

### ***Section 1. Meetings***

- A. The Faculty Assembly shall meet during the University sessions as necessary.

The previous wording stated, “The Faculty Assembly shall meet during the University sessions, with at least one regular meeting each semester. The date and times of the regular meetings shall be set by the Chair of the Faculty Senate.”

- B. The Chair of the Faculty Senate shall call a Special Meeting of the Faculty Assembly at any time upon the request of the Chancellor, the Provost, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, a majority of the Faculty

Senate, or the written request of thirty members of the Faculty Assembly.

The above underlined phrase was added.

## **5. SPOT and Online Teaching Evaluations (Judy Groulx, University Evaluation Committee)**

Judy Groulx presented information regarding the introduction of an online format for TCU's *Student Perceptions of Teaching* (SPOT). Advantages of an online system include:

- \* Allows optional use of paper format
- \* Assures respondent anonymity
- \* Timely results
- \* Compatible with PeopleSoft
- \* Allows for flexible item design
- \* Allows broad range/variety of statistical analyses
- \* Software can be used for other survey applications

She indicated that it is crucial to allow for broad expression of concerns, such as response rates, sampling validity, and student buy-in. The University Evaluation Committee proposes an initial trial that would try out the new online system at midterm and for use of the traditional SPOTs at end-of-semester. The presentation generated a lot of discussion, questions, and concerns by the Senators.

## **6. Remarks from Provost Nowell Donovan**

Provost Donovan stated a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with Camp Fire USA pertaining to the study of the development of a daycare by which members of the TCU community would be able to access daycare services. The University Advisory Committee accepted all of the tenure applications. This was the year of the largest number of tenure applicants. The new TCU Admissions building is 8 or 9 days behind schedule. TCU currently has 13,538 applicants, compared to 11,500 at this time last year. The SAT scores are the highest ever. The Honors College had to close down applicants due to the demand and limited number of positions. TCU is renegotiating the agreement with Brite Divinity School. Provost Donovan encouraged faculty to attend the first TCU Faculty Picnic.

## **7. Deferred discussion from Old Business**

A discussion was held pertaining to the February Faculty Senate Open Forum topic of the timing of and rescheduling of finals. It was indicated that some faculty reschedule their final exams, which leads to conflicts with other scheduled exams. A question was addressed to Pat Miller (TCU Registrar) as to whether an additional day can be given to submit graduating senior grades. Mr. Miller indicated it is difficult to get the diplomas printed with the current schedule, and did not know if the printing company could expedite the process. 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.

## **Announcements**

The 1<sup>st</sup> TCU Faculty Picnic is Saturday, March 27 from 12:00 – 4:00.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.