

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, 5 November 2009
3:30 - 5:00 PM
The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

Senators Present

Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Rebecca Dority, Ze-Li Dou, Blaise Ferrandino, Lynn Flahive, Sally Fortenberry, Greg Friedman, Misha Galaganov, Charles Hannon, Dianne Hawley, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Darren Middleton, Artemis Moon, Sheri Neill, Don Nichols, Hylda Nugent, Steve Palko, Anna Petursdottir, Claire Sanders, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodt, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Kay Stevens, Maggie Thomas, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood

Senators Excused

Bob Akin, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Jason Clark-Miller, Till Meyn, Linda Moore, Julie O'Neil, Jan Quesada, Michael Sawey, Melissa Sherrod

Senators Absent

Carrie Leverenz

Welcome guests:

The following guests were welcomed to the meeting: Provost Nowell Donovan, Dean Scott Sullivan (TCU College of Fine Arts), Don Mills (Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs), Glory Robinson (Associate Dean of Campus Life), Lindsay Gastorf (Center for Academic Services)

Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2009

Minutes approved as submitted.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Student Safety (Don Mills, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs)

Dr. Mills stated safety for students, staff, and faculty is the most important thing we do at TCU.

Owing to the recent sexual assault of a student, TCU has increased the visibility of the TCU police force. TCU has 33 certified police officers and 6 security guards. Many of the TCU police officers are retired Fort Worth police officers, which allows for an excellent relationship with the Fort Worth Police Department. TCU has increased the number of police officers working between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. TCU is addressing visibility issues such as height of bushes and fences to ensure every location on campus is safe. A major issue is complacency among students, due to students' trusting attitude and assuming wherever they are they are safe. Dr. Mills stated that many students would allow strangers or other students into a dorm even if they do not have an I.D. card. TCU offers the Froggie Five-O escort service and it has supplied 10,265 rides this semester. The bus shuttle service is a safety program and runs 24 hours per day. Glory Robinson is chairing an ad hoc committee to address safety issues such as lighting, emergency telephones, and cameras. TCU has committed \$1 million over the next 3 years. TCU has various safety programs such as Assault Prevention Theater, Victim Advocate Program, and Inform (online sexual assault education). Buildings should be kept locked when possible, as TCU is located within an inner urban area. Questions were fielded and Dr. Mills responded by informing Senators that Froggie Five-O ends at 1:00 a.m., but the TCU Police will provide escorts after 1:00 a.m. Dr. Mills encouraged faculty to contact his office or Glory Robinson if they have any ideas or concerns about safety.

2. Advisor Professional Development (Lindsay Gastorf, Center for Academic Services)

Lindsay Gastorf, (Center for Academic Services) shared information about TCU's Advisor Professional Development and the Spring 2010 workshops. The workshops are not just for advisors, but rather anyone who works with students will benefit from the information discussed. The Spring 2010 workshops are interactive and provide faculty and staff the opportunity to share ideas and discuss various topics related to:

- providing exceptional service to TCU students
- utilizing advising best practices
- and enhancing skills in the areas of student development and academic advising

For more information contact Deidra Turner at 817-257-7486 or d.r.turner@tcu.edu.

3. TCU College of Fine Arts (Dean Scott Sullivan)

Dean Scott Sullivan (College of Fine Arts) provided an overview of the College. He shared an overview of the School of Art, School for Classical and Contemporary Dance, Department of Design, Merchandising, & Textile, School of Music, and Department of Theatre. He introduced "7 facts you might not know about the College of Fine Arts."

1. Music, theatre, and dance students must audition for entry into Schools.
2. One half of the marching band students are not music majors
3. The College has 9 specialized computer labs
4. The College has 3 units that have courses in lighting (Dance, Theatre, and Design)
5. The College does not teach many courses in the summer but does have festivals and camps
6. TCU has a long history in Arts dating back to the founding of the university

7. The College is costly due to issues such as space and production budgets.

Along with TCU Athletics, the College of Fine Arts is the most visible College and is important in defining the fabric of TCU.

4. Remarks from Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan provide a potpourri of remarks. He began by addressing the loss of Dr. Ron Shirey (TCU Chorale Director) and expressed his condolences and praised his service at TCU. Provost Donovan indicated that safety is not only for students, but also faculty. The debating chamber in Scharbauer Hall is near completion and a Debating Society will be established. He stressed the need for TCU to teach the skills of active rhetoric so TCU alumni can “croak better and louder.” He encouraged the development of contentious debates and stated he will be calling upon faculty to participate in the Debate Society. The Scharbauer Hall is looking spiffy and it will be Gold LEED certified. Shirley Hall is already Gold LEED certified. The new TCU Admissions building will be Platinum LEED certified and construction will begin next year. New buildings are being considered such as an academic building, an expansion for the library, and a parking garage.

5. Formation of Faculty Senate Picnic Committee

Chair Busbey announced that on Saturday, March 27, 2010, the Faculty Senate will host the FIRST All-Faculty Picnic. This is an opportunity for you and your family to meet and mix with other TCU faculty families. This is a great opportunity to build community in a relaxed and informal environment. The fun happens at Frog Alley where the Faculty Senate will provide lunch, drinks, games and activities for all ages - kids through adults - and enjoy the music of the Killdares, the award-winning Celtic Rock Band from Dallas. Any Senator who would like to volunteer to assist in the organization of the picnic, please contact Chair Busbey.

6. Faculty Senate Open Forum

On behalf of Senator Clark-Miller, Senator Whitworth introduced two topics for discussion. First, is there a need for an academic testing center to provide a place for students with disabilities, students who must take standardized tests/exams that must be monitored and certified, and for students who must take make-up exams? A lively discussion ensued and the general consensus was that there is a need for an academic testing center and more discussion should follow. Senator Whitworth will email a survey to gather additional information and comments.

The second topic concerned students potentially receiving their final grades too quickly during finals week. The issue is that some students may become distracted from studying due to worrying about their final grade that has already been assigned in a course. The Senators voiced they were not aware of this being a major concern among students.

Announcements

None

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55.