

## ***TCU Faculty Senate***

Thursday, February 10, 2011

The Chambers of the TCU Brown Lupton University Union

### **Senators Present**

Bob Akin, Ron Anderson, Onofrio Annunziata, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Martin Blessinger, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Jason Clark-Miller, Rebecca Dority, Richard Estes, Billy Farmer, Lynn Flahive, Greg Friedman, Sarah Fuentes, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Artemis Moon, Linda Moore, Joddy Murray, Hylda Nugent, Julie O'Neil, Jan Quesada, Ranga Ramasesh, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Michael Sawey, Marie-L. Schein, Paul Schrodt, Alan Shorter, Gloria Solomon, Loren Spice, Gregory Stephens, David Vanderwerken, Dan Williams, Scott Williams.

### **Senators Excused**

Misha Galaganov, Carrie Leverenz, Sheri Neill, Claire Sanders

### **Senators Absent**

Julie Baker, Jon Burgess, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Diane Hawley, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Steve Palko, Chris Sawyer, Melissa Sherrod, Michael Skinner, Kay Stevens.

#### **I. Call to Order and Welcome to Guests**

Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Dianna McFarland called the session to order at 3:30 PM and welcomed the following guests:

Marsha Ramsey, Director of the TCU Center for Academic Services

Dr. Deidra Turner, Associate Director of Academic Services

Bre Beacham, Academic Advisor in the Center for Academic Services

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Director of Assessment and Quality Enhancement

Dr. Judy Groulx, Chair of the Evaluation Committee

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the December 2 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

#### **III. New Business**

##### **A. The Major Quest and Minor Adventure**

Marsha Ramsey, Director of the TCU Center for Academic Services, provided a brief history of the Center's effort to guide students towards a minor or major. In 1995, the Center launched the Major/Minor Fair to help undecided students choose a suitable path in their studies. Until 2000, the Major/Minor Fair was held in the old Student Center. In 2004, the event moved to the Ballroom. Departments were invited to set up tables and display information pertaining to their respective degrees. The Center for Academic Services gave awards for the most spirited table. In 2009, the fair moved to the Auditorium of the new Brown Lupton University Union. There was no fair in 2010.

Low attendance prompted Director Ramsey and her team to give a new direction to the fair and seek a new location while maintaining the same goals: to help students choose a major and understand their career options after graduation.

Dr. Deidre Turner, Associate Director, explained the rationale that prompted the changes in the event. Dr. Turner told Senate that students ask three basic questions: What can I do with this major? What minor can I combine with this major? What occupation can I secure with this major?

Predicated on the desire to answer these questions, the new direction for the Major/Minor Fair aimed to increase attendance, focus not only on undecided students but also on decided majors, and engage faculty and staff in a more rewarding and effective manner.

Bre Beacham, Academic Advisor, described the new format of the event. *The Major Quest and Minor Adventure* is organized around six separate events that bring together faculty, staff, and students to talk about the connections between specific majors and minors and the multiple academic paths that will open professional opportunities in the areas of:

1. Business,
2. Law and Government,
3. Art and Media,
4. Science, Environment and Technology,
5. Children and Family,
6. Health.

Research shows that students are more and more focused on finding an occupation at the end of their studies. Thus, *the Major quest and Minor Adventure* chose these six recognizable occupations to clarify what

students can do with their majors and how they can achieve their professional goals.

Each *Major Quest and Minor Adventure* event provides opportunities for departments to advertize their programs and for students to attend a panel discussion.

The general discussion that followed the presentation clarified the goals of the *Major Quest and Minor Adventures* and gave Senators a forum to express their opinions about this initiative.

#### B. SPOT Evaluations and Small Classes

Dr. Greg Friedman, Chair of the Academic Excellence Committee and Dr. Judy Groulx, Chair of the Evaluation Committee invited Senators to discuss a proposed motion to restrict the use of quantitative SPOT evaluations for classes with smaller enrollments.

Greg Friedman reviewed the terms of the motion:

*TCU Faculty Senate Motion on Student Perception of Teaching survey:*

*a. Student Perception of Teaching surveys shall not be required in classes with three or fewer enrolled students at the time of university survey distribution.*

*b. Student Perception of Teaching surveys shall not be required to include quantitative questions (i.e. questions that require a numerical rating as an answer) in classes with seven or fewer enrolled students at the time of university survey distribution.*

A brief discussion followed, then, the motion passed.

#### C. Preparation for the Spring 2013 SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Accreditation

Dr. Catherine Welhburg, Director of Assessment and Quality Advancement and Dr. Ed McNertney, SACS Academic Advisor came to Senate to explain how TCU is preparing for the Spring 2013 SACS visit. TCU is evaluated by SACS every ten years. TCU's last accreditation visit happened in 2003.

Dr. Welhburg reviewed the main phases of the accreditation process from the preparation currently under way to the SACS campus visit in 2013 and subsequent recommendations. Dr. Welhburg highlighted several of the real benefits to schools that receive accreditation and pointed out the specific benefits for TCU. SACS accreditation for TCU assures quality, provides access to federal and

state funds, engenders private sector confidence, and provides information to other institutions regarding TCU's quality.

SACS accreditation means that TCU has a mission, the resources to implement it, and measures in place to insure a quality education.

TCU's preparation includes the creation of a Compliance Certification Committee and a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee.

Dr. Ed McNertney explained what TCU is doing to prepare for the 2013 SACS visit. Chancellor Boschini, Provost Donovan, Dr. Catherine Welhburg, and Dr. Ed McNertney head the TCU Leadership Team. The Compliance Certification Steering Committee, SACS Committees, and a Quality Enhancement Plan Director and Planning Committee. The latter will require faculty participation.

(Note: Dr. Welhburg's complete presentation is available in Power Point format in the Faculty Senate Archives.)

#### D. Faculty Senate Executive Session

The Faculty Senate went into executive session to discuss the candidates for a TCU Honorary Degree.

#### **IV. Announcements**

Art Busbey, Senate Past Chair announced that March 26 is the date of the Second Annual Spring Faculty Picnic.

Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.