

# ***TCU FACULTY SENATE MEETING***

**September 2, 2010**

**3:30-5:05 pm**

**The Chambers, Brown Lupton University Union, Room 3004**

## **Senators Present**

Ron Anderson, Onofrio Annunziata, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Martin Blessinger, Jon Burgess, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Jason Clark-Miller, Rebecca Dority, Richard Estes, Lynn Flahive, Greg Friedman, Sarah Fuentes, Misha Galaganov, Diane Hawley, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Carrie Leverenz, Suzy Lockwood, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Artemis Moon, Linda Moore, Joddy Murray, Sheri Neill, Hylda Nugent, Steve Palko, Jan Quesada, Ranga Ramasesh, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Claire Sanders, Michael Sawey, Chris Sawyer, Marie-L. Schein, Paul Schrodt, Melissa Sherrod, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Gloria Solomon, Loren Spice, Gregory Stephens, David Vanderwerken, Dan Williams, Scott Williams.

## **Senators Excused**

Kay Stevens

## **Senators Absent**

Julie Baker, Steve Mann, Julie O'Neil.

## **I. Call to Order**

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

## **II. Welcome Guests**

Guests included Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Judy Groulx, College of Education and TCU Evaluation Committee, and Catherine Wehlburg, Director of The Office for Assessment and Quality Enhancement.

## **III. Approval of Minutes- April 29, 2010**

The April 29 minutes were approved as submitted.

## **IV. Open Issues**

None

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Introduction of Faculty Senate Executive Committee Members**

The 2010-2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee includes the following members:

Dr. Dianna McFarland, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Dr. Art Busbey, Past Chair

Dr. Dan Williams, Chair Elect

Dr. Marie-L. Schein, Secretary

Dr. Till Meyn, Assistant Secretary

### **B. Chancellor Victor Boschini: Welcome and Announcements**

Chancellor Victor Boschini opened his remarks by predicting that this year was going to be another great year for TCU. He announced his personal theme for the 2010-2011 academic year, "Honor Thy Teacher," and explained how this goal will be reached.

Several great new faculty were hired, 12 new tenure lines have been created, and after a 7-year search, The Welch Chair has been hired.

The *US News and World Report* has ranked 3500 schools in America, and TCU has made it to the actual Top 100. TCU jumped 11 ranks, the highest jump of any school this year. TCU also made the Top 20 Hottest Schools in the country. Chancellor Boschini emphasized that it is because of what the faculty do that students are here. The faculty are the reason that TCU has moved up in the ranks.

Chancellor Boschini announced that this summer 12 individuals have given \$12 million to build the new stadium, a record time.

The Chancellor has asked Provost Donovan to look into establishing various ranks and honors to celebrate long-time professors who currently do not have any new incentives after they reach the status of Full Professors. Dr. Donovan will form a committee to work on this project.

This year, Chancellor Boschini is committed to raise \$8.5 million to fix The Ballet and Modern Dance Building. The Board has already pledged \$4 million from the operating budget and the Chancellor will raise the rest. So far, TCU has received a gift of \$1million and another for \$500 000.

The Chancellor declared that Adjunct Faculty at TCU are not paid well although they are quality teachers who are often essential in the operations of many departments. Thus, adjunct pay will be raised to become competitive with area schools such as UT Arlington. Dr. Donovan will also form a task force to work on augmenting adjunct pay.

Finally, Chancellor Boschini plans to raise \$100 million in scholarships and new faculty lines, in part to maintain an ideal faculty/student ratio.

### **C. Dr. Suzy Lockwood, Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee: Overview of Senate Operations**

Dr. Lockwood presented an overview of the year-round operations of the Faculty Senate from summer to summer for the benefit of the new Senators and to provide a refresher for returning Senators.

During the summer the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meets to set up the work of the Senate for the upcoming academic year. First, the FSEC names “anew” members and chairs to the five Senate Committees. Nominations are based in part on the preferences they have expressed in a survey conducted by the Committee on Committees but they are also made in an effort to establish equal representation from all the colleges.

In August, the FSEC meets with the Provost to consider important issues that the Faculty Senate will address during the year. The FSEC continues to meet with the Provost every month.

Also in August, the FSEC meets with the chairs of the University Committee to review all the charges of their committees and consider changes to the Faculty Senate Handbook as a result of actions taken in the previous year.

In the fall, the FSEC sends out a call for recommendation for the Honorary Degree. Dr. Lockwood emphasized that throughout the year, the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Provost work in close partnership with one another to discuss or work on issues, make recommendations, seek approval, and bring recommendations to a vote.

Finally, the End-Of-Year Reports that the committee chairs submit to the Provost sum up the work of each committee. The Provost reviews all reports and makes decisions based on the committees’ recommendations or requests.

During the fall of the next academic year, the Provost reports these recommendations and requests to the Senate and discusses any progress or action.

#### **D. Introduction of University Committee Members By their Respective Chairs**

The chairs of the five Faculty Senate Committees introduced their members and presented an overview of the specific charges each committee will work on during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Alan Shorter, Chair of the Tenure and Promotion Committee (TPG), announced that TPG will oversee the promotion process for Professors of Professional/Clinical Practice and Instructors, paying particular attention to the number of faculty going up for promotion and the percentage of successful promotions. Another important charge will focus on defining Service and its place in faculty engagement.

Ted Legatski, Chair of the Student Relation Committee (SRC), stressed the ambitious assignment of his committee, including bringing to completion the honor code and engaging students constituencies in the discussion of advising and retention.

Suzy Lockwood, Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee (FGC), emphasized the charge of her committee to make all official documents, including the Faculty Senate and Faculty/Staff Handbooks, congruent to any new policy.

Arnie Barkman, Chair of the Committee on Committees (COC), explained how COC monitors the activities and operations of all university committees, works with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to nominate faculty to committees, and organizes a yearly orientation workshop for new university committee chairs.

Greg Friedman, Chair of the Academic Excellence Committee (AEC), spoke of the committee's continuing effort to complete the work on the Student Honor Code and implement the code, their attention to ensure students who receive scholarships are able to maintain them, and the committee's interaction with the TCU Evaluation Committee as the new online SPOT evaluation system becomes effective this year.

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

Provost Donovan opened his remarks with a call to action extended to all Senators to report back to their constituents on the activities of the Senate in order to "Make it live," thus soliciting faculty engagement and participation. Senators should speak about the Senate work at their faculty meetings and talk with their deans to emphasize the relevance of the Senate and to make it powerful.

Per Linda Moore's request, Provost Donovan agreed to try to impress upon the administrators to avoid scheduling meetings on Thursday afternoon in order to encourage full attendance at the Senate meetings.

Provost Donovan elaborated on Chancellor Boschini's announcement of his personal theme, "Honor Thy Teacher," and revealed plans to establish two types of positions for senior TCU faculty. The Distinguished University Professor rank will offer long-time tenured professors an incentive to reach a capstone position that will celebrate their work. The rank of Master Teacher will promote long-time Professors of Professional/Clinical Practice. In the next two to three months, Provost Donovan will establish the cohort that will articulate these opportunities.

The Vision in Action Plan will be assessed to determine which goals have been accomplished and which direction to take in the next five years or so. Particular emphasis will be placed on academics, which will lead to the development of an Academic Master Plan. Many faculty have been working on this task, but many more will be able to participate and contribute to the work. The first Town Hall Meetings will be held September 13 and 14 to explore the new Vision in Action plan, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees in November.

This year, Provost Donovan committed to providing the minutes of the Provost Council to Dianna McFarland. Dianna will edit the Provost Council minutes and post them on the Faculty Senate website.

SACS assessment is coming up in 2013. Ed McNertney and Catherine Wehlburg will lead the preparation process, forming committees, and a task force to ensure a seamless process before, during, and after the SACS assessment.

This year, TCU welcomed 1820 new freshmen, including a record number of transfer students. Provost Donovan foresees some possible stress on the faculty as these new students progress through their degree plan. In particular, class sizes may increase.

In closing, Provost Donovan stated that the economy is TCU's current external threat. He explained that the financial modeling that forecasted the end of the recession for this fall had to be adjusted. Although the Endowment is not down, it is flat, thus, pushing back the year in which TCU will be able to pay back to the Endowment.

#### **F. Dr. Judy Groulx, College of Education and Chair of the TCU Evaluation Committee: Overview of the new Online SPOT Evaluation**

Dr. Groulx provided an historical perspective of the work of her committee since 2005 to establish a modernized electronic online system to evaluate faculty performance by students.

After an unsuccessful first trial of an online SPOT evaluation process in 2007 that revealed many technical problems as well as an overall lack of student participation, TCU has purchased a new system, *Class Climate*. Faster than the previous tool, *Class Climate* interfaces with People Soft so that faculty can upload and download it, generates more reports and statistics, and preserves the students' anonymity. This new system also allows faculty to customize questions that are more relevant to their fields.

Dr. Groulx remarked that Provost Donovan has visited with the Student Senate and the staff of the Skiff and has already received their support. In addition, students in the College of Education, who are learning the most innovative practices in teaching, are very excited about this new system.

Dr. Groulx announced that a voluntary trial will take place this fall during midterms before the system is launched in the spring of 2011.

Following Dr. Groulx's presentation, several senators voiced their concerns and shared remarks about the upcoming switch to online SPOT evaluations. Senators raised concerns about the low rate of student participation, the poor quality of the feedback, the potential for technical problems, the philosophical implications of the system regarding methodology, and the problem of inconsistent, disinterested, or even unkind feedback.

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Director of The Office for Assessment & Quality Enhancement, confirmed that the technology in place will ensure the successful operation of the system.

#### **G. Open Forum**

Faculty Senate Chair Dianna McFarland announced the return of the Open Forum to the Senate agenda. Upon their arrival to the Chambers, Senators will be able to propose a discussion topic on the Open Forum sign-up sheet.

There was no Open Forum discussion on September 2.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM