

**TCU Faculty Senate Meeting  
1 September 2011  
3:30 – 5:00 PM  
The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004**

**Agenda**

**Senators Present**

Onofrio Annunziata, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Martin Blessinger, Jon Burgess, Rebecca Dority, Richard Estes, Greg Friedman, Misha Galaganov, Jeffrey Geider, Tracy Hanna, Dianne Hawley, San-ky Kim, Ted Legatski, Carrie Leverenz, Suzy Lockwood, Dianna McFarland, Johnny Nhan, Ed McNertney, Linda Moore, Hylda Nugent, Steve Palko, Jan Quesada, Ranga Ramasesh, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Chris Sawyer, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodt, Krista Scott, Alan Shorter, R. Eric Simpson, Michael Skinner, Gloria Solomon, Loren Spice, Gregory Stephens, Angela L. Thompson, David Vanderwerken, Jo Nell Wells, Dan Williams, Scott Williams

**Senators Excused**

Lynn Flahive, Michael Sawey, Michael Strausz, Billy Farmer, Steven Mann, Cara Jacocks, Julie Baker

**Senators Absent**

Bob Akin, Ronald Anderson, Sarah Fuentes, Bi Ying Hu, Joddy Murray

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Dan Williams at 3:35 PM.

**Welcome Guests**

Guests included Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, *Skiff* Reporter Travis Puckett, Caroline Wiersgalla from SGA, Vice Chancellor Kathy Cavins-Tull, Staff Assembly Chair Randy Chambers, and ACE Fellow Dr. John Buckwalter.

**Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2011**

The minutes of May 5, 2011, were approved as amended.

**Old Business**

None.

## New Business

1. Welcome and Greetings from TCU Faculty Senate Chair Dan Williams

Dan Williams stated he was privileged to stand before the Senate following a long line of great Faculty Senate chairs. He related that someone had asked, "What is your agenda?" He responded, "I don't really have one; we have one. It comes from all of you. Leadership comes from process and all of you take part in that process." He said that Faculty Senate By-laws represent the views of the faculty and endorse the free expression of those views. He continued by speaking about a recent article attacking the Texas university system, specifically the tenure system and the kind of research that is done. Williams believes that we have to take full responsibility for the way we are perceived outside of the academy. That is one of the things he'd like to stress this year.

2. Greetings from TCU Provost Nowell Donovan

The Provost welcomed the Senate back and asked the new senators to remember that this university is run on a system of shared governance and that the administration and faculty are symbionts of one another – "we are your support team and you are ours." He reminded the senate that the faculty's responsibility is to design the curriculum, do research that pushes back the frontiers of our ignorance in all directions. The administration's responsibility is to administer that curriculum and support the work of the faculty.

3. Greetings from Chancellor Victor Boschini

After welcoming the Senate, the Chancellor stated that his goal for the year is to listen more, encouraged the Senate to join him in that, and praised the Provost for his listening skills. He stated that we are all blessed to be here at this time and that it is a great time for TCU. The university hired forty-seven new faculty members. Not all were new lines, but many were. Twenty-one new staff members were hired in the police department and some other areas. He underscored his position that TCU needs more faculty. However, even with an incoming class of 1873 students, the faculty-to-student ratio is 13 to 1.

Boschini reported the TCU Board of Trustees met on August 29th. They decided to have a retreat in February during which they will set the strategic goals for TCU for the next three years. They will concentrate on three things: academic reputation and profile of our incoming class, the size of TCU, and space utilization. They also voted to build three more residence halls on the empty corner across from the Mary Wright Building and the Rec Center. These are projected to be complete by January of 2013. A renovation of Colby Hall will follow.

The Board has a new Chair, Clarence Scharbauer III, and a new Vice Chair, Mark L. Johnson, both of whom Boschini feels will be great assets to TCU.

Last year was biggest fundraising year in the history of the school with \$100M raised. Of the larger fundraising goals, \$100M has been earmarked just for scholarships. Of that goal, \$81M has been met in a campaign that still has fifteen months left. He expressed concern about the national economy by establishing another goal to save money on campus, stating, "These are great times for TCU, but hard for the country."

Responding to questions from the Senate, he stated that the new residence hall plan will also include parking and that broader parking issues for the university are being discussed. He also clarified that the new residence halls will not be fraternity/sorority housing, but that was in future plans, as was addressing parking. 314 new parking spaces will be temporarily added behind the College of Business in a block that he hopes eventually will be a new academic building.

Boschini then introduced Dr. Kathy Cavins-Tull, the new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Dr. John Buchwalter, an American College and Education (ACE) Program Fellow who will be at TCU for a year. TCU's Dr. George Low is involved in the same program this year at UTA.

4. Greetings from Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Kathy Cavins-Tull

The Vice Chancellor thanked the Senate for inviting her to the meeting and stated that she looks forward to continuing her history of working closely with faculty in making student life strong outside the classroom. Additionally, she looks forward to getting to know the faculty.

5. Greetings from Staff Assembly Chair Randy Chambers

On behalf of the Staff Assembly, Chambers welcomed the faculty to the 2011-2012 academic year. He expressed his personal thanks to the faculty for being the major reason TCU is a great university and thanked Chancellor Boschini and his predecessors for the great job they have done in bringing the faculty and staff together. He also stated that, if there is anything that the staff can do for the faculty, please contact him.

6. "How the Faculty Senate Conducts Business," Senator Suzy Lockwood

Senator Lockwood, for the benefit of new and even experienced senators, walked the Senate through a PowerPoint presentation of how the Faculty Senate does business. Both this presentation and the Faculty Senate Handbook can be found on the Faculty Senate website. She encouraged senators to take very seriously their responsibilities as members of this body and to notify their constituencies about what is going on in the Senate, as well as bring their concerns to the Senate. At this point, Dan Williams thanked Art Busby for his continued work in keeping the website updated.

7. Welcome of TCU Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Senate Chair Dan Williams introduced the Faculty Senate Executive Committee: Marie Schein, Chair-Elect; Dianna McFarland, Past Chair; Alan Shorter, Secretary; and David Sandell, Assistant Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms. He then introduced the senate committee chairs and thanked them for their work. As some issues from last year continue to be pertinent this year (such as evaluations and E-SPOTs), many committee standing charges remain the same. However, Williams expressed his wish that some of the specific charges "come from the bottom up." He encouraged committee members to express their ideas to their committee chairs about new specific charges they would like addressed.

8. Update on SACS and QEP, Senator Ed McNertney and Catherine Wehlburg

Catherine Wehlburg stated that TCU's SACS visit will happen in March, 2013. The Quality Enhancement Council is working on two documents. The first is the Compliance Certification

Document, due in about a year. That is going smoothly. The second document is a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). It will focus on “Innovation and Inquiry.” Updates to the QEP can be viewed at <http://www.sacs.tcu.edu/qep.asp>. They are currently in the “idea gathering” stage and would like ideas from the faculty. Narratives of these ideas can be found by clicking on the purple “here” link midway down the page.

McNertney added to Wehlburg’s comments regarding the QEP by saying we need to come up with a project that is going to enhance education on this campus that will carry us from 2013-2018 and possibly beyond. In order to involve as many people as possible, town hall meetings were held last spring and a survey was circulated. Ideas were gathered from faculty, building on an on-going planning process from the last five or six years. Now they are getting ideas from everyone on campus and putting them on the website. We will categorize these ideas and put out a call to let everyone know there will be an Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> gathering for people to meet with others who have similar ideas. The hope is that those ideas will be expanded into proposals. Those preliminary proposals will be due Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. The Quality Enhancement Council will pick four or five finalists in consultation with the Provost and the Chancellor. The finalists will develop full project proposals next spring. One of those will be chosen as the final QEP.

Wehlburg stated that Strategic Initiative funding could be available for those proposals that are not chosen as the final QEP. The proposals will actually be from a team, not an individual, consisting of a minimum of three people: two faculty members from different colleges and one Student Affairs staff member. Teams can be bigger. The hope is that more faculty, staff, or even students on some of the teams that submit. Part of the purpose of the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is to help individuals find people who have similar ideas so that they can potentially work together. People can expect an email reminding them of the Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> deadline for the “big ideas.” They will post them on the website with hopes that these ideas will stimulate others.

#### 9. TCU Faculty Senate Committee Reports 2010-2011 Summary—Past Chair Dianna McFarland

McFarland thanked Dan Williams for his leadership and his kind words regarding the FSEC. She proceeded to give an overview of the major accomplishments of the Faculty Senate last year. Highlights included recommendations brought to the Senate regarding the evaluation of teaching, the efforts of the Academic Excellence Committee and the work done on E-SPOTs, and the completion of the Student Academic Honor Code. The Handbook was updated and University Programs finally has a representative on Faculty Senate in the form of Jeff Geider, Director of Ranch Management.

When asked where we stood regarding the proposals presented at the last FS meeting, McFarland responded that her Annual Report is still being worked on. Nowell Donovan Clarified that they actually have been able to meet on many things that he has already received. A new computer program has been purchased for E-SPOTs. (Greg Friedman reported that he has had the opportunity to work a bit with it and is encouraged by its capabilities. We can expect a full report as an exploration continues.) In regard to one section of the Evaluation of Teaching document that was presented (that no more than 30% of an evaluation be based on SPOTs or E-SPOTs), according to McFarland, the Provost would

like to have discussions with the FSEC. The Provost then thanked McFarland for her hard work as Chair of the Senate last year and her continued work for the university at large.

Dan Williams said that having the evaluation of teaching on our plate was a positive thing and he is glad it will be on the agenda.

10. Open Forum, Chair Elect Marie Schein

Schein explained the process for getting items into the Open Forum by signing up on the sheets on the table at the chamber entrance. If there are too many items, some will be tabled, but eventually everyone will have a chance to address the Senate regarding their item.

She then opened the floor to the Open Forum. Alan Shorter brought up concerns from colleagues regarding lack of Wi-Fi access for faculty members on their personal laptops while on campus. Scott Williams said this issue came up in the Computer and Telecommunications Committee. As he is the new chair of that committee, faculty members should feel free to contact him with their concerns. Following further discussion, the Provost suggested that the Senate invite Bryan Lucas, Chief Executive Officer of Technology Resources, to discuss the issue.

Dan Williams also stated that the agendas for the FS meetings are not set in stone and Senators should contact him if there are individuals that should be invited as guests. Williams also pointed out that President Newell Williams of Brite Divinity School would be on the agenda in October. It was then suggested that Larry Lauer, Vice Chancellor for Government Affairs, would make an interesting guest. An overview of his efforts as a lobbyist and representative of TCU would be informative.

When asked about the Texas Equalization Grants, the Provost informed the Senate that there were cuts, but that some money was put back into the program, so it did not end up being the worst-case scenario people feared.

Dan Williams asked the Provost if the issue of the +/- policy might come back to the Senate. The Provost responded that there are student concerns that there isn't an A+ to balance out A- grades, so that it make it more difficult to maintain a perfect 4.0 average.

With no other announcements or questions, Chair Dan Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shorter  
Secretary, Faculty Senate