

**Faculty Senate Annual Report 2008 – 2009**  
**August 1, 2009**  
**Submitted by: Sheri Neill, Chair**

**OVERVIEW:**

As chair it is my honor to report the business of the Faculty Senate during the academic year 2008-09. The year officially began in May and June of 2008 during which time the Executive Committee (EC) set the Senate calendar, determined committee assignments for Senate members and worked on committee charges for the year. In August the EC met with committee chairs to discuss their charges as well as any changes that were needed. The same type of meeting was also held in January 2009. Welcome back greetings were given by Senate Chair Sheri Neill to the university staff and faculty at the opening luncheon in August.

Plans for the fall agenda were made in August by the EC. Senate meetings were held in September, October, November, December, February, March and two meetings in April in our new facility – the Chambers. Please see the Senate website, <http://www.fsn.tcu.edu/> for membership, charges, meeting agendas, minutes, motions, committee reports and other documents.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The 2008 – 2009 Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee had several accomplishments. Listed below are prominent areas.

- Senate meetings were in a new location – the Chambers in the Brown-Lupton University Union (BLUU).
- First annual training session for all University Committee Chairs was held by the COC (Committee on Committees).
- Creation of an “Open Forum” to allow Senators to bring issues directly to the floor of the Faculty Senate and provide 5 minutes for presentation and discussion. A total of 30 minutes was allowed for the Open Forum. At the end of the time allotted, Senators ranked the issues by importance. The EC addressed top issues by taking action or sending the issues to the appropriate Senate Committee. Senators identified two areas to address – “greening of TCU” and “undergraduates grading undergraduates”.
- Motion passed to have the Faculty/Staff Handbook as an exclusively electronic document available on the TCU webpage.

- Hosted a Faculty Assembly in February to discuss revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws.
- Participation by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in two Deans' searches that resulted in the successful hiring's of Dr. Mary Patton, College of Education and Dr. Demitris Kouris, College of Science and Engineering.
- Senate participation in the annual TCU Capital Campaign and challenge from the Staff Assembly to encourage both faculty and staff support of the campaign that exceeded the 2007 – 2008 effort.
- A fall and spring briefing of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees during their regular campus meetings.
- Hosting a joint Assembly titled, "Meeting Hard Times with Innovative Solutions".

## **SENATE COMMITTEE WORK**

- **Academic Excellence**  
Three motions regarding TCU course retake policy were passed by the Senate. These motions will now move through the system. The Honors College charter was approved by the Senate in March.
- **Committee on Committees**  
This committee instituted an annual training session for University Committee chairs. In addition they continued their efforts to archive Committee charges and standard operating procedures as well as supported on-going University and Senate committee duties.
- **Faculty Governance**  
The bylaw changes reflective of appropriate Faculty Senate handbook changes were presented and approved by the TCU BOT in March 2009. This committee also facilitated the efforts to have the Handbook for Faculty and Staff solely on-line.
- **Student Relations Committee**  
A joint assembly was conducted to address recycling, composting, and how to generate less waste during the economic downturn. This committee also worked with the SGA to help plan and implement the First Year Experience.

➤ **Tenure, Promotion, and Grievance**

The Faculty Appeal Policy has been sent to the Provost and we are waiting for final word for implementation. An investigation was made concerning the position of a university Ombud. Reports of findings were included in the final committee report. In addition the committee was made aware of various documents governing promotional tracks other than tenure in the various TCU schools and colleges.

➤ **Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

The FSEC met monthly with Provost Donovan to review issues of concern to the faculty. These meetings were in addition to monthly EC meetings. Administrative decisions during the economic downturn were discussed as well.

**SENATE VISITORS/BRIEFINGS:**

*Chancellor Victor Boschini* – reported on numerous issues including campus construction, Capitol Campaign, and budget.

*Provost Nowell Donovan* – gave information and inspiration concerning many aspects of the University including the President’s Climate Commitment, Honors College, budget concerns, report on TCU Gender Study and announcement of a committee to implement ideas generated from the report – Rhonda Keene will chair, and the formation of a new committee – Climate Commitment Curriculum Committee that will investigate and recommend a plan of how to integrate the concepts of climate neutrality and sustainability into the curriculum – Keith Whitworth will chair.

*Larry Kitchens, Chair* – brought greetings from the Staff Assembly and looked forward to another successful year and relationship.

*Senator Ed McNertney* – gave information about the TCU Common Reading as well as the Core Curriculum Committee.

*Mike Russell*, Executive Director of Student Affairs Administration and James Parker, TCU Student Activities Director provided an introduction and overview of the TCU Brown-Lupton University Union (BLUU).

*SGA representatives* – Carlton Alexander, Priscilla Morrison, Bennett Parson, Candace Ruocco, and Chance Welch attended and expressed support for motions to change the Course Retake Policy.

*Kimmy Daycock* – TCU Skiff Reporter

*Senator Suzy Lockwood* – discussed TCU Benefits Survey and the TCU Wellness Program.

*Jim Hille*, TCU Chief Investment Officer – gave information concerning the TCU endowment and assets.

*Danny Morrison*, TCU Director of Athletics & *Gary Patterson*, TCU Head Football Coach – information was given concerning bowl games, finals and graduation. Coach Patterson expressed appreciation to faculty for dedication to scholarship and students.

*Brian Gutierrez*, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and *Kenneth Janak*, director of Budget and Financial Planning gave an update concerning the budget. There were two reports – one in the fall and spring meetings.

*Ellen Shwaller*, Social Justice Coordinator and *Adam Gamwell*, Program Coordinator of the Office of Religious and Spiritual life provided an overview of services and discussed the TCU Hunger Week.

*Dave Cooper*, Associate Director of Resident Life – reported on Living Learning Programs at TCU.

*Peggy Watson*, Honors College Program Director provided a visual presentation pertaining to the new TCU John V. Roach Honors College.

*Senator Keith Whitworth* reported the findings of the Undergraduates Grading Undergraduates Survey. Upon analysis of results of the survey, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee determined the issues would be explored within the Faculty Senate committees.

*Chris Uchacz*, director Athletic Academic Services – gave a report on student athletes and scholarship.

*Janine Kraus*, Director of TCU Annual Giving – asked Senators to encourage colleagues to give to the TCU Annual fund.

*Senator Bob Akin*, COIA Representative – reported on the annual COIA meeting.

*Senator Sally Fortenberry* – discussed term limits on University Committees. A resolution was proposed and approved to change the term from five years to three.

*Shari Barnes*, TCU Human Resources Director of Employee Relations – indicated that Human Resources is using more informal mediations and less formal mediations.

## **PRIORITIES FOR 2009 – 2010**

- Implementation of the senate approved faculty Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion Appeal Policy.
- Continue to monitor documents governing promotional tracks other than tenure in the various TCU schools and colleges.

## **FINAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to express my deepest gratitude on behalf of TCU to all the Senators who gave their time and talents to serve. I would specifically give thanks to the

Executive Committee of the Senate who worked as a magnificent team – Dianna McFarland (Assistant Secretary), Keith Whitworth (Secretary), Art Busbey (Chair-elect) and Stuart Youngblood (Past Chair); the Chairs of the Standing Senate Committees – Blaise Ferrandino (Academic Excellence), Sally Fortenberry (Committee on Committees), Suzy Lockwood (Faculty Governance), David Bedford (Student Relations), Cynthia Chapa (Tenure, Promotion and Grievance). Additionally I would like to thank Bob Akin, the Senate’s liaison to the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics; and Ed McNertney. Director of the TCU-CC and Chair of the Heritage, Mission, Vision and Values (HMOV) for their work on behalf of the Senate.

The Senate would like to express our deepest appreciation to Chancellor Victor and Mrs. Megan Boschini for graciously hosting a spring reception for the Faculty Senate at their residence on April 9, 2009 and to Dr. Boschini for hosting the faculty Senate Executive committee for dinner at LaPiazza on May 7, 2009 . Additionally, we would like to thank provost Nowell Donovan for hosting the faculty Senate Executive Committee for dinner on April 27, 2009 at Café Aspen.

A special thanks to Kimmy Daycock, Skiff reporter who diligently and competently reported on the 2008 – 2009 academic year activities of the Faculty Senate.

I am excited to report that during our April 30, 2009 Senate meeting, Dianna McFarland was elected chair-elect, Keith Whitworth was reelected Secretary and Till Meyn was elected Assistant Secretary.

For more information, please consult the Senate website, <http://www.fsn.tcu.edu/>

Respectfully submitted August, 2008.

Sheri L. Neill, Chair, TCU Faculty Senate