

The Faculty Senate Committee on Committees Report 2013-2014 (5-5-2014)

Arnie Barkman, Chair

Committee Members:

Qiao Zhang (MATH),
James Petrovich (SOWO)
Michael Skinner (THEA)
Michael Strausz (POSC)
David Begnoche (MUSI)
Bruce Carroll (CRJU)
Sandra Waters (MOLA)
Jesus Castro-Blabi (MUSI)
William Meier (HIST)

Marie Schein (senate liaison)

Accomplishments:

1. The New Chair orientation was held on September 19, 2013 at 3:30 in the BLUU. Eight of eleven new Chairs or their representatives attended.
2. We received a proposal from the Computer and Telecommunications Committee which requested a change in name to "Technology" to better reflect the work of the committee. Also in the proposal was a request to change the number of faculty on the committee from nine to seven and require, to the extent possible, that there is a representative from each college (Business, Communication, Education, Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Health Sciences, Science and Engineering) on the committee. Note that Ranch Management and Honors College were excluded. Reasons for the changes included difficulty in getting proper attendance at meetings given the size and constituencies of the committee. It was also stated in the revised charge that the committee should participate in planning and decision-making with regard to campus technology initiatives.

This proposal was passed by the Committee on Committees and the Faculty Senate

3. Proposals were received from Academic Appeals and Scholarships and Financial Aid to change the terms of membership from August until May to Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 to provide coverage for issues coming to those committees during the period between the end of May and end of August. This seemed reasonable given that TCU is becoming more of a 12 month operation, and there already is the Compensation Advisory Committee which operates on a 12 month basis. The proposal was passed by the Committee on Committees but was tabled by the Faculty Senate given concerns mentioned below in the section headed "items for 2014-2015."
4. A proposal was brought by the Research and Creative Activities Committee to increase the size of the committee with the inclusion of a faculty member from Music. Initially the idea seemed reasonable, but a few days of email discussion among the Committee on Committee members revealed differences of opinions, and given the lateness in the semester which did not permit the usual protocol of the chair and other interested parties of the requesting committee appearing in

person before the Committee on Committees for questions and answers, we decided to defer any consideration of this proposal until the coming academic year. See item #2 below.

5. The Survey to all full-time faculty and instructors was sent out on February 18 and closed March 4. There were 198 responses. Fifty-five University and Research Committee vacancies, including chair vacancies, were filled utilizing the responses from the survey with the assistance of each CoC member. Arnie Barkman met with Bonnie Melhart to discuss Research Committee staffing. The CoC nominations will be submitted to Mary Nell Kirk in the Chancellor's office who will send the letters of appointment from the Chancellor in August 2014.

Items for 2014-15

1. Issue of period of service, 9 month or 12 month. Need to consider legal implications of 12 month service vs. 9 month contract (although Compensation Advisory is on a 12 month term and this concern has never arisen). Also consider recognition of service, need for additional monetary compensation, or simply let faculty know the term for a particular committee and faculty can choose not to volunteer for that committee.
2. Research and Creative Activities Committee request for an additional member, going from 10 to 11, specifically adding a member from Music. Need to define whether the committee has excessive work load or lack of expertise (neither of which were identified in the committee's annual report). Do we create problems by specifying a particular discipline or department rather than making a broad statement as was done with Technology (see #2 above)
3. The International Students Committee has not met in some time. John Singleton, (International Student Services) in a conversation with me, indicated that the committee might well be considered for being eliminated.
4. I have already reserved the Beck- Geren rooms in the BLUU for the new chair orientation (existing chairs also welcome) for 3:30 on Thursday Sept. 18, 2014. That's the third Thurs. which means the Committee on Committees gets to meet the week before to talk about the orientation, especially for the benefit of the new CoC members. Food in the past has been cookies and tea and that gets arranged thru Sodexo with the Senate (Jan) paying the bill.