

**TCU Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**06 February 2013**  
**3:30 – 5:00 PM**  
**D.J. Kelly Alumni Center**

**Minutes**

**Senators Present**

Bob Akin, Ronald Anderson, Onofrio Annunziata, Arnie Barkman, Martin Blessinger, Jon Burgess, Art Busbey, Bruce Carroll, Rebecca Dority, Richard Estes, Billy Farmer, Lynn Flahive, Greg Friedman, Sarah Fuentes, Jeff Geider, Tracy Hanna, San-ky Kim, Andrew Ledbetter, Ted Legatski, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Joan McGettigan, Stathis Michaelides, Johnny Nhan, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Chris Sawyer, Marie Schein, Alan Shorter, Eric Simanek, Eric Simpson, Michael Skinner, Greg Stephens, Michael Strausz, David Vanderwerken, Jo Nell Wells, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood

**Senators Excused**

Ranga Ramasesh, Jan Quesada, Paul Schrodt, Gloria Solomon, Janet Spittler, Angela Thompson, Diane Hawley, Nadia Lahutsky, Suzy Lockwood, Linda Moore, Joddy Murray, Hylda Nugent, Katie Polzer, Cynthia Chapa

**Senators Absent**

Julie Baker, David Bedford, Brian Clinnin, Bi Ying Hu, Clark Jones, Steve Palko, Krista Scott

**Guests Present**

Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Veronica Laborde (TCU 360 reporter), Bonnie Melhart (Associate Provost of Academic Affairs), Dr. Tom Crowell (Intensive English program), Ryan Tiglas (Academic Affairs Chair, SGA)

**Call to Order**

Chair Marie Schein called the meeting to order at 3:30.

**Senate Business**

1. The minutes of the November 2012 Senate meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections.
2. Senators standing in for those on sabbatical this semester were introduced.
3. Art Busbey was introduced as the new Faculty Senate Webmaster.

## Guest Presentations

- 1) Brief informational updates were given by Marie Schein. The status of the library renovation was summarized via a statement from Dean Koelker. The impending start of this semester's eSpots was announced. Fall eSpots appear to have proceeded reasonably well, and some changes will be implemented for Spring 2013 based on feedback received from students, faculty, and administrators.
- 2) Chancellor Boschini took the floor to discuss and answer questions regarding employment benefits and other matters:
  - a) There have been no changes as yet, but the Board of Trustees has challenged him to save money as we raise tuition. Suggestions from the faculty are solicited, and may be emailed directly to Chancellor Boschini. Benefits are one of our most expensive budget items. Chancellor Boschini reiterated several times that no decisions have been made, and no changes are pending, regarding employment benefits. Only looking at options for now. Energy requirements have already been under discussion as another possible option for reducing the costs of running the University, and some changes have been made to lower energy costs.
    - i) Discussion also addressed the recent change in the administration of retirement benefits. A choice of plans is now offered, and the amount contributed by TCU for retiree benefits (\$202.70) is exactly the amount required to purchase the "Cadillac" benefit plan. That amount may be adjusted in future to reflect inflation. No benefit is guaranteed, no benefit is off the table. Grandfathering current employees is an option, but has its own problems. Decisions will be made by inviting all constituents to make recommendations, following which the Chancellor will go to the Board of Trustees with an overall recommendation.
    - ii) The FSEC will distribute a survey to all faculty to begin the process of gathering information and faculty perceptions of benefits and their relative importance. Other methods of information gathering and discussion will also be employed, such as focus groups and a faculty assembly.
  - b) Lobbying in Austin for Tuition Equalization Grants was well-received, but no votes as yet. With Larry Lauer retiring, a decision has been made to merge his lobbying responsibilities into those of another staff member so that we won't need to hire another high-level staff member.
  - c) Gun laws – discussion is ongoing in Austin regarding the current state of firearms law and how it affects universities. Legislation has been introduced to mandate acceptance of concealed handgun licenses at all Texas universities. Chancellor Boschini indicated that we will follow the laws, whatever they are or become.

- 3) Dr. Bonnie Melhart the took the floor to provide updates on degree programs. We have nine Ph.D. programs, 62 Masters-level programs, and 3 graduate certificate programs.
  - a) She discussed support for graduate students, including:
    - i) CollegeNet
    - ii) Online orientation
    - iii) Graduate Student Senate
    - iv) Graduate Enhancement Modules (GEMs)
    - v) Travel grants
    - vi) Financial aid
  - b) Briefly discussed the TCU Research and Creative Scholarship website ([www.research.tcu.edu](http://www.research.tcu.edu)) and encouraged all to explore what is available therein.
  - c) Finally, she presented the Women Faculty Initiatives website ([www.womenfaculty.tcu.edu](http://www.womenfaculty.tcu.edu)) and encouraged all to explore it as well.
- 4) Dr. Thomas Crowell of TCU's Intensive English Program took the floor to make a presentation regarding the program. He explained to purpose, role, and function of the IEP. He noted that they now enroll 69 students, with enrollment generally standing between 55-70 students. IEP teaches language, not content. They invite consultation if anyone (students or faculty) are having language-related difficulties with students whose first language is not English.

Following Dr. Crowell's remarks, the Faculty Senate went into executive session, and the meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:00 PM.