

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
07 March 2013
3:30 – 5:00 PM
D.J. Kelly Alumni Center

Minutes

Senators Present

Bob Akin, Ronald Anderson, Onofrio Annunziata, Julie Baker, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Martin Blessinger, Jon Burgess, Art Busbey, Bruce Carroll, Cynthia Chapa, Brian Clinnin, Billy Farmer, Greg Friedman, Sarah Fuentes, Jeff Geider, Tracy Hanna, Diane Hawley, San-ky Kim, Nadia, Lahutsky, Andrew Ledbetter, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Joddy Murray, Johnny Nhan, Hylda Nugent, Steve Palko, Katie Polzer, Jan Quesada, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Chris Sawyer, Marie Schein, Krista Scott, Alan Shorter, Eric Simanek, Eric Simpson, Michael Skinner, Gloria Solomon, Greg Stephens, Michael Strausz, David Vanderwerken, Jo Nell Wells, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood,

Senators Excused

Lindy Crawford, Rebecca Dority, Richard Estes, Lynn Flahive, Dianna McFarland, Joan McGettigan, Stathis Michaelides, Linda Moore, Ranga Ramasesh, Paul Schrodtt, Loren Spice, Janet Spittler, Angela Thompson, Stephen Weis, Scott Williams, Qiao Zhang,

Senators Absent

Guests Present

~~Chancellor Victor Boscchini~~, Provost Nowell Donovan, Veronica Laborde (TCU 360 reporter)

Call to Order

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

Senate Business

1. The minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2013 were approved with two corrections.
2. Dan Williams read a letter of gratitude from Emmett G. Smith regarding the honorary degree he was awarded.
3. Dr. Suzy Lockwood (Committee on Committees) made a brief presentation regarding a proposition of a revised committee structure for the faculty senate, for discussion purposes.

- a. After examination the current committee charges, bylaws, etc., the CoC devised several recommendations for modifying the committee structure and the various standing charges of the committees. That document is attached to these minutes.
- b. The standing charges are only a portion of what each committee handles every year...they also have specific charges that vary from year to year. The proposed revisions to the standing charges are intended to re-align charges with committees where they seemed more appropriately housed, and also to re-balance the work loads of the several committees.
- c. Several further modifications were suggested by various Senators, and will be incorporated by the CoC in a later draft of their proposal.
- d. Suzy solicited comments from the faculty senate for further improvements to the proposal.

4. Updates

- a. A resolution made by Gloria Solomon in December has been approved, and endorsed by Provost Donovan.
- b. By the end of the fiscal year, it is expected that the faculty will be informed as to how personal electronic devices may achieve connectivity through TCU's wi-fi.

5. Benefits

- a. A brief history of the recent discussion regarding employee benefits was offered through a prepared statement by Chair Schein.
- b. A resolution regarding employee benefits, prepared by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, was presented to the assembled Senators by Chair Schein. Suggested changes will be incorporated, and the revised document will be circulated to the Senators prior to the April meeting.
- c. Dan Williams also updated the Senate on the activities and discussions of the University Compensation Advisory Committee (UCAC). The committee agreed that they need a careful comparison, on the basis of total compensation, with peer schools before any further progress can be made. UCAC will be meeting at least monthly until the end of the semester, and has requested that the necessary information be gathered.
- d. A letter from Paul King and other signees regarding the signees' reactions to the initiative to begin exploring faculty perceptions of employee benefits (which was previously sent to all faculty) was read to the Senate.
- e. Vigorous discussion of employee benefits, retiree benefits, and the process by which such changes have happened, and will happen, ensued.

- i. Numerous concerns with the process around issues of due diligence, the role of the faculty senate in these kinds of decisions, and the importance of fully shared governance, were raised.
 - ii. Provost Donovan shared his perspective regarding the economic environment and TCU's ongoing contingency planning efforts...Operation Hope Not (that is, we hope this doesn't happen). He indicated that we are doing incredibly well at present, and we have a very strong entering freshman class (important for a University so heavily tuition dependent). The Chancellor has indicated that grandfathering current acuity would be a desirable step if adjustments to benefits became necessary. Part of the contingency planning includes examination a variety of other options (e.g., halting construction, etc.) for dealing with economic challenges that might conceivably arise in future.
 - iii. Some comparative data gathered by UCAC were shared with the Senate.
- f. Provost Donovan will share additional numbers and data relative to the discussion with the faculty at large.

Guest Presentations

6. There were no guest presentations at this meeting of the faculty senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.