

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
November 7, 2013
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Akin, Bob; Barkman, Arnie; Bedford, David; Begnoche, David; Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Chapa, Cynthia; Dority, Rebecca; Esposito, Phil; Flowers, Roma; Geider, Jeffrey; Gollaher, Timothy; Griffith, Robin; Jenkins, David; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lockwood, Suzy; Mann, Steve; McGettigan, Joan; Miller, Vanessa; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Linda; Murray, Joddy; Neilson, Robert H.; Nhan, Johnny; Petrovich, James; Polzer, Katie; Quesada, Jan; Ramasesh, Sandell, David; Sawyer, Chris; Schein, Marie; Schrodt, Paul; Scott, Krista; Shorter, Alan; Simpson, R. Eric; Skinner, Michael; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Gregory; Strausz, Michael; Warrington, Patricia; Waters, Sandra; Weis, Stephen; Wells, Jo Nell; Williams, Dan; Williams, Scott; Wood, Barbara; Zhang, Qiao

Senators Excused

Clinnin, Brian; Friedman, Greg; Kim, San-Ky; Meier, William; Michaelides, Stathis; Nugent, Hylda; Simanek, Eric; Spittler, Janet; Thompson, Angela

Senators Absent

Akkaraju, Giridhar; Carroll, Bruce; Crawford, Lindy; Krochmal, Max; McFarland, Dianna; Palko, Steve; Woodworth, Steve

Guests Present

Steven Taylor (Human Resources), Jenny Dick (Human Resources), Chris Seekely (SGA)

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Chris Sawyer called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the October 3, 2013 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved with minor revisions.

Old Business

1. N/A

New Business

2. Jenny Dick and Steve Taylor presented information on the rollout of two-factor authentication that will be required for off-campus access to employee self-service on my.tcu.edu. This will protect access to employee information such as paycheck data. The first step will be the TCU username and password, and the second will be a unique PIN number for each online session that will be sent (at least initially) to the employee's cell phone. If a cell phone number is not available for the employee, access will only be available from an on-campus computer. Other alternatives are in process for getting a session unique pin for off campus access, such as when an employee is traveling overseas. Q&A ensued, with questions primarily revolving around access when one's cell phone is out of commission.
3. Alan Shorter presented a resolution proposing the establishment and funding of a university testing center. Some discussion ensued about the wording of the resolution, and the point was made that the resolution was worded to allow for maximum flexibility in implementing the proposal. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the resolution.
4. Chair Sawyer then summarized the FSEC's meeting with the Academic Affairs Committee of the TCU Board of Trustees. David Sandell summarized three key issues that would benefit from senate engagement - the Core Curriculum, the key themes previously presented by Provost Donovan, and the ePortfolio rollout. He advocated that we, as faculty, need to claim them, rather than simply react to administrative guidance and suggestion. Much discussion ensued about the more active role many feel the faculty should take on these, and other important issues. Some expressed the concern that the Senate as a body has not been adequately consulted prior to some decisions being made that affect the academic mission and operations of the University. Most of the remainder of the Senate meeting was given over to open discussion by the members of the Senate regarding how the Senate can become a more vital, proactive, and influential part of the design, decision-making, and creative discussions about key elements of the future of TCU. Key elements of that discussion that emerged include:
 - How can the Senate become a more vital part of shaping the vision and initiatives of the University, such as decisions about the library, theme years, ePortfolios, and so forth?
 - The need to have an open forum discussion (like this one) with the Provost present, to engage in mutually beneficial discussion on how to engage the faculty and the Senate more fully at the beginning of development of initiatives affecting the future of the University.
 - Concern was expressed about the dominance of assessment over content delivery and learning in course development (such as for the Core Curriculum), and that faculty need

to act to maintain an appropriate balance between the needs of assessment for purposes of accreditation, and the learning/teaching needs of the students and faculty.

- Considerations of for whom certain applications are appropriate and developmental, such as for the ePortfolio initiative. An argument was made that the ePortfolio is most appropriately developmental for the very students who perhaps need it the least.
5. At the end of the session, Patricia Warrington took a few moments to discuss a question of who should see outside reference letters for review of promotion and tenure materials. In some cases, outside reviewers are sending electronic letters to the department chair, but simultaneously to the candidate, which appears to be contrary to University policy. She also expressed a secondary concern that electronic transmission of letters is less secure than other forms of transmission. Various Senators offered advice on how to handle the issue in future, based on their own experience with P&T procedures. Fundamentally, letters inviting outside reviews should indicate that the reviewers are requested to abide by TCU policy and not share their letters with the candidate under review.
 6. Paul Schrodt raised the issue of the proliferation of textbook buyers on campus, and suggestions were offered for dealing with them, and for handling the security risk such "hall wanderers" may present to students as well as faculty.

The Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary