

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
10 April 2014
3:30 – 5:00 PM
University Debate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Akkaraju, Giridhar; Barkman, Arnie; Bedford, David; Begnoche; Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Chapa, Cynthia; Clinnin, Brian; Crawford, Lindy; David; Friedman, Greg; Geider, Jeffrey; Gollaher, Timothy; Griffith, Robin; Kim, San-Ky; Legatski, Ted; Mann, Steve; McFarland, Dianna; Michaelides, Stathis; Miller, Vanessa; Moeller, Thomas; Murray, Joddy; Neilson, Robert H.; Nhan, Johnny; Polzer, Katie; Quesada, Jan; Sawyer, Chris; Schein, Marie; Schrod, Paul; Scott, Krista; Simpson, R. Eric; Skinner, Michael; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Gregory; Strausz, Michael; Warrington, Patricia; Waters, Sandra; Wells, Jo Nell; Williams, Dan; Williams, Scott; Wood, Barbara; Zhang, Qiao

Senators Excused

Weis, Stephen; Thompson, Angela; Sandell, David; Nugent, Hylida; Petrovich, James; Moore, Linda; Meier, William; McGettigan, Joan; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Jenkins, David; Dority, Rebecca; Akin, Bob

Senators Absent

Carroll, Bruce; Esposito, Phil; Flowers, Roma; Krochmal, Max; Lockwood, Suzy; Palko, Steve; Ramasesh, Ranga; Shorter, Alan; Simanek, Eric; Spittler, Janet; Woodworth, Steve

Guests Present

Randy Cobb (Campus Safety Director) Provost Nowell Donovan, Ed McNertny, and Catherine Wehlburg

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Chris Sawyer called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the March 6th, 2014 meetings of the Faculty Senate were approved.

Old Business

3. N/A

New Business

1. Provost Donovan welcomed the Senate to the University Debate Chambers and told of the recent debate between an Irish debating team and the TCU debate team. Any faculty member can reserve the debate chamber through the Provost's office for class debate purposes.
2. Jeanine Krause made a brief appeal for "cheerleaders" for the faculty/ staff annual fundraising campaign. The extent to which the faculty and staff contribute to the University (at any level that is comfortable for the individual) is considered an indicator of the strength and commitment of the campus community. Major donors are very interested in the rate at which faculty and staff contribute to University fundraising. Last year was a record year. The deadline for this year's campaign is April 25th.
3. Randy Cobb then made a brief presentation regarding spring weather (tornados) safety matters on campus. The safety department is putting up signage in each classroom indicating where safe shelter may be found nearby. Some buildings are better than others in terms of available shelter space. Additional information may be found on the safety department's website. There is a new mass notification system..."inside, outside, and by the side." Faculty may sign up for "by the side" by going to the safety department's website. Inside, most buildings now have the capability of verbal warnings (by police, for example), and similar warnings will be communicated outside by means of several warning sirens that can also communicate verbal messages in the event of an emergency. The safety department will be offering classes in future regarding what to do in the event of an active shooter emergency. Video training is also available through the website.
4. Senator Barkman then gave a report from the Committee on Committees on the composition of the standing committees. It was proposed that several committees (which had specifically requested the change) be converted from nine month terms of service to twelve month terms. Discussion ensued, primarily about whether we can commit faculty to service during the summer when they are (principally) on nine month contracts. Various perspectives were expressed, mostly suggesting opposition to the idea for a variety of reasons. An alternative proposal was to offer a stipend for faculty who would be willing to continue service during the summer for these committees, similar to what is done for other necessary University needs (e.g., teaching classes). It was determined to table the discussion until next year, when there will be sufficient time to explore all possibilities and factors.
5. Senator Lockwood then gave a report from the Core Review Committee. The Core has been in place for ten years. Four charges were given the committee, as seen in the accompanying PowerPoint slideshow. The committee believes that the data they collected show that three of the four have been met by the Core Curriculum. Regarding the fourth, the committee suggests that the University needs to re-focus it's marketing of the Core to all constituents to show how it supports the mission of the University so that it doesn't seem like a box checking exercise. Faculty also need to be able to discuss the value of their core classes as they relate to the mission and vision of the Core Curriculum and the University. Alumni data should be used to show the value of the core to a TCU education. A second recommendation was that new faculty and administrators (including adjunct and graduate assistants) should receive

extensive orientation to the Core. Others may need a refresher, especially to ensure that they are still teaching to the specified outcome(s) associated with their Core course. Additionally, the process for submitting and vetting a proposed Core course should be thoroughly reviewed and revised as necessary. Time spent in these training activities should be counted as service to the University. The third recommendation is that all Core courses should be monitored for the effectiveness with which they meet the goals of the Core. A fourth recommendation was that there should be further discussion oriented to including foreign language study into the core. Additionally, the constraints out on transfer students transferring in courses that would otherwise qualify for Core requirements should be examined and addressed. Enhancement of writing emphasis, especially in upper division courses would be desirable. Finally, service learning should continue to be integrated in significant ways into the Core.

6. Dianna McFarland (Tenure, Promotion, and Grievance) then led a discussion regarding the Revised Faculty Appeal Policy. She showed and explained the various revisions to the policy document. Extensive discussion ensued, and discussion was suspended (to be taken up again in the May meeting) to allow time for presentation of the ballot of Senate Officers.
7. Chair Sawyer then presented the ballot for Senate Officers for the 2014-2015 academic year. No additional nominations were offered from the floor of the Senate. The slate of officers was unanimously approved by the Senate.

There being no further business, the Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary