

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
06 February 2014
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Akkaraju, Giridhar; Barkman, Arnie; Bedford, David; Chapa, Cynthia; Crawford, Lindy; David; Esposito, Phil; Friedman, Greg; Geider, Jeffrey; Griffith, Robin; Jenkins, David; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lockwood, Suzy; Mann, Steve; McFarland, Dianna; McGettigan, Joan; Meier, William; Michaelides, Stathis; Murray, Joddy; Nhan, Johnny; Nugent, Hylda; Petrovich, James; Quesada, Jan; Ramasesh, Ranga; Sawyer, Chris; Schein, Marie; Scott, Krista; Shorter, Alan; Simanek, Eric; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Gregory; Waters, Sandra; Weis, Stephen; Williams, Dan; Williams, Scott; Wood, Barbara; Woodworth, Steve

Senators Excused

Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Clinnin, Brian; Dority, Rebecca; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Linda; Palko, Steve; Polzer, Katie; Sandell, David; Schrodt, Paul; Strausz, Michael; Thompson, Angela; Warrington, Patricia; Wells, Jo Nell; Zhang, Qiao

Senators Absent

Akin, Bob; Begnoche, Carroll, Bruce; Flowers, Roma; Gollaher, Timothy; Kim, San-Ky; Krochmal, Max; Miller, Vanessa; Neilson, Robert H.; Simpson, R. Eric; Skinner, Michael; Spittler, Janet;

Guests Present

Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, three representatives from SGA, two TCU 360 reporters

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Chris Sawyer called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the November 7th and December 5th, 2013 meetings of the Faculty Senate were approved with minor modifications.

Old Business

3. N/A

New Business

4. Provost Donovan updated the Senate on the Academy for Tomorrow. We are ahead of schedule on Rees-Jones Hall construction. The extension of the Bass building is also ahead of schedule. The Provost will make available a presentation regarding what will be available in the library and Rees-Jones Hall in the way of classrooms and other facilities and technology. There will also be technology enhancements in the library renovations, which will follow Rees-Jones Hall's completion by a year. Additionally, the Quality Enhancement Program was accepted by SACS without reservation. We now have a web page up for the Great Themes program, and five course proposals have already been submitted. Other faculty have noted that they will be adding to, or changing, existing courses to adapt to the semester themes.
5. The Academic Excellence Committee put forward a resolution regarding the establishment of foreign language houses, to wit:
 - a. "The Faculty Senate supports the establishment of a German Language House and a French Language House. It also calls for the Provost to work with the Department of Modern Language Studies, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Kathy Cavins-Tull, and Director of Housing Craig Allen to provide sufficient funding to support them."
 - b. These would not be separate buildings, but areas set up within existing student housing, such as a floor or other definable space.
 - c. Subsequent discussion addressed issues of:
 - i. Whether the Senate should be involved in approving resolutions that would require the University to provide an unspecified amount of funding.
 - ii. Whether this would set a precedent for special housing for other groups. General agreement was reached that these are academically relevant recommendations, not interest groups, and thus do not set such a precedent for non-academically oriented groups to have separate housing.
 - iii. The benefits of immersion training/experience for students in foreign language studies.
 - d. A suggestion was made to remove names from the resolution, leaving titles only. This was adopted as a friendly amendment, and the change was made.
 - e. Another suggestion was made to change the wording of the resolution to indicate that the houses would be made available to a select group of students. Only 16 beds will be available, so admission to the program will be necessarily select, and will involve an application by interested students. Thus, this suggestion was not adopted.

- f. A motion was made to approve the resolution, and the subsequent vote carried the motion with one abstention.
6. The Senate then moved into executive session to consider honorary degree nominations. Prior to the discussion of the nominees, there was a discussion of the extent to which nominees should have a strong connection to the University, and there was general agreement that strong connections would be very desirable, but not perfectly essential.
7. Chair Sawyer made a final announcement regarding a date change for the April Senate meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary