

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
04 September 2014
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Argenbright, Kristi; Bedford, David; Begnoche, David; Busbey, Art; Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Chapa, Cynthia; Clinnin, Brian; Friedman, Greg; Fry, Julie; Geider, Jeffrey; Gil, Dan; Gollaher, Timothy; Griffeth, Robin; Hammad, Hanan; Jenkins, David; Jenschke, Monica; Jimerson, Jo Beth; Kim, San-ky; Krochmal, Max; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lockwood, Suzy; Mann, Steven; McFarland, Dianna; McGettigan, Joan; Meier, William; Michaelides, Efstathios; Miller, Vanessa; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Carrie; Moore, Jeff; Moore, Linda; Nugent, Hylda; Quesada, Janis; Ramasesh, Ranga; Sandell, David; Sawyer, Chris; Scherger, Michael; Schiffer, Adam; Schrodt, Paul; Scott, Krista; Shniderman, Adam; Simanek, Eric; Simpson, R. Eric; Skinner, Michael; Stephens, Greg; Warrington, Patricia; Whitworth, Keith; Wood, Barbara; Woodworth, Steven; Zhang, Qiao.

Senators Excused

Akin, Bob; Kerstetter, Todd; Spice, Loren; Williams, Daniel; Farmer, Billy.

Senators Absent

Engler, Jennifer; Esposito, Phil; Lovett, John; Neilson, Robert H.; Palko, Steffen; Petrovich, James.

Guests Present

Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Sherry Milhollin (Chair, Staff Assembly)

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Jan Quesada called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the May 2014 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as submitted.

Introductions, Information Items, and Announcements

3. Sherry Milhollin, Chair of the Staff Assembly was introduced and briefly spoke of the purposes and goals of the Staff Assembly, and how we can work effectively together.
4. Chancellor Boschini welcomed the Senate to the new school year.

5. Provost Donovan made brief remarks. In excess of 10,300 students are enrolled at TCU.
6. Chair Jan Quesada introduced herself and the other members of the Executive Committee. She also provided a brief overview of the operation of the Faculty Senate (see her PowerPoint presentation).
7. Chair Quesada invited each of the six Senate committee chairs to introduce their committee members, and to review their standing and special charges for the coming academic year.
8. All faculty are required to complete two new online compliance initiatives, which were recently distributed by email to all faculty. All are encouraged to complete them before the end of September.
9. Changes to the open enrollment procedures have been discussed in several presentations made by Faith Perkins, Director of Human Resources. All employees of the University will be required (this year) to specifically select all elements of their benefits. Faith will be making additional presentations on this and related issues, and all are encouraged to attend, as desired. Some colleges and departments are inviting Faith to meet with them. Open enrollment begins in November.

Old Business

10. N/A

New Business

11. Chair Quesada discussed the Executive Committee's initiative to form a task force on the TCU Promise, the purpose of which is to explore and make recommendations regarding recent changes in retiree benefits and their long-term non-financial (as well as financial) implications for the implied social contract between faculty and the University. The task force membership includes both current and retired faculty. Charges for the task force are detailed in the accompanying PP presentation from Chair Quesada.
 - a. A motion was made and seconded to secure a "sense of the Senate" to heartily support and encourage the work of this task force, which was resoundingly and unanimously approved by voice vote.
 - b. Senator Ledbetter pointed out concerns about compensation issues with regards to adjunct faculty at TCU.
 - c. Provost Donovan suggested sending the task force initiative and the sense of the Senate to all faculty, which we agreed to do. He also encouraged the faculty to attend Convocation, where "something good" will be shared with regard to adjunct professors working at TCU.
12. Lastly, newly elected Senators were invited to introduce themselves.

The Senate adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary