

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
04 February 2016
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Baker, Kathy; Barth, Tim; Bedford, David; Busbey, Art; Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Coffey, Jeff; Farmer, Billy; Friedman, Greg; Fry, Julie; Geider, Jeffrey; Gil, Dan; Gollaher, Timothy; Jenkins, David; Jimerson, Jo Beth; Krochmal, Max; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lovett, John; Michaelides, Efstathios; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Carrie; Moore, Jeff; Powell, Samantha; Quesada, Janis; Ramasesh, Ranga; Sandell, David; Scherger, Michael; Schiffer, Adam; Schrodt, Paul; Scott, Krista; Shniderman, Adam; Shorter, Alan; Skinner, Michael; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Greg; Whitworth, Keith; Williams, Daniel; Wright, Robin; Yorkston, Eric; Zhang, Qiao

Senators Excused

Esposito, Phil; Jenschke, Monica; Mann, Steven; Meier, William; Moore, Linda; Simanek, Eric; Warrington, Patricia;

Senators Absent

Argenbright, Kristi; Begnoche, David; Hammad, Hanan; Hokayem, Hayat; Kerstetter, Todd; Kim, San-ky; Lim, Steve; Packard, Sally; Palko, Steffen; Petrovich, James; Sawyer, Chris; Solomon, Gloria; Woodworth, Steven;

Guests Present

Chancellor Victor Boschini, Romana Hughes (Asst. Vice Chancellor for Educational Technology and Faculty Development), Don Whelan (VC-University Advancement), Joddy Murray, Kaylee Bowers

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Stathis Michaelides called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as submitted.

Old Business

3. N/A

New Business

4. Vice Chancellor Don Whelan gave the Senate an update on the coming fund-raising campaign, which will focus on people and programs. Our needs and aspirations are greater than our current endowment can support. The goal for this campaign is to double the size of our endowment. Recent momentum is favorable. Discussion included addressing the influence of the new medical school on giving behavior for TCU. At least \$200M of philanthropic giving must come for the med school, but it appears that the med school will attract giving that TCU simply would not receive otherwise.
5. Romy Hughes then took the floor to give the Senate an update on the implementation timeline for adoption of D2L, the replacement for Pearson Learning Studio. Most elements of eCollege transfer automatically and cleanly to D2L. Gradebook does not transfer well, but she indicated that we will likely want to rebuild the gradebooks anyway to take advantage of new tools provided by D2L. At least five faculty are still needed for the D2L pilot test.
6. A resolution regarding the role and status of adjunct faculty at TCU put forth by the Faculty Relations Committee was then placed under discussion. That resolution had been tabled previously, was then revised, and came before the Senate in its revised version today. The revised resolution was distributed to all faculty with the meeting agenda for today's Senate meeting. Discussion ensued, with several "friendly amendments" and wordsmithing changes suggested. One friendly amendment eliminating some wording in point #2 resulted in the resolution below being voted on and approved by the Senate.
7. Chancellor Boschini was then invited to share his thoughts and respond to questions from the Senators. An agreement with UNTHSC regarding the medical school has not happened as quickly as anticipated, but they are making progress. Another issue is the perceived scarcity of residency slots for the anticipated number of students who will graduate each year from the medical school, but in conversations with area hospitals, residency slots have been found or created to fill the anticipated need.
8. Following Chancellor Boschini's remarks, the Senate went into executive session to discuss honorary degree nominations.
9. Lastly, the Senate announcements were made regarding the process and timing of nominations for positions on the Senate Executive Committee. Nominations are due by March 15, 2016, and should be sent to Ted Legatski, Assistant Secretary of the Senate.

The Senate adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary

Resolution from the FRC

During the 2014-15 academic year, the Faculty Relations Committee of the Faculty Senate examined data regarding the role and status of adjunct faculty members at TCU. Data included results of a previously published national study, institutional data gathered by TCU's Office of Institutional Research, a survey the Committee administered to adjunct faculty, and a separate survey the Committee administered to unit chairs. A report on these data was distributed to the Faculty Senate on April 23, 2015.

The data revealed that many adjuncts express commitment to TCU's mission and engage meaningfully with their students and TCU colleagues. At the same time, both adjuncts and chairs expressed concern about the compensation of adjunct faculty members, with TCU lagging behind some schools in the region and our national peers.

Based on this analysis, the Faculty Senate:

1. Supports recent efforts to hire full-time faculty members to replace adjunct faculty members hired to meet enrollment demands, particularly with regard to TCU Core classes. For example, we support extending the current three-year program for the conversion of adjunct positions into full time positions to six years or more.
2. Recommends enhancing the status and recognition of all adjunct faculty members.
3. Given the outstanding reputation of TCU both within the region and nationally, recommends increasing the compensation of all adjunct faculty members. This will:
 - Allow TCU to compete more effectively with our peer universities;
 - Prevent loss of current adjunct faculty to regional universities, in fulfillment of the first cardinal principle of the Vision in Action strategic plan ("Recruit and retain outstanding students, faculty and staff who can thrive intellectually, personally and professionally at TCU"); and,
 - Attract the most skilled adjunct faculty in the region, in fulfillment of the second cardinal principle of the Vision in Action strategic plan ("Design a vibrant, strong and brave learning community that is characterized by outstanding teaching").