

**TCU Faculty Senate Meeting  
01 November 2012  
3:30 – 5:00 PM  
Faculty Senate Chambers**

**Minutes**

**Senators Present**

Bob Akin, Ron Anderson, Onofrio Annunziata, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Jon Burgess, Bruce Carroll, Cynthia Chapa, Lindy Crawford, Richard Estes, Billy Farmer, Greg Friedman, Sarah Fuentes, Jeff Geider, Diane Hawley, Clark Jones, Andrew Ledbetter, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Joan McGettigan, Stathis Michaelides, Linda Moore, Hylida Nugent, Katie Polzer, Ranga Ramasesh, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Chris Sawyer, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodt, Krista Scott, Alan Shorter, Eric Simpson, Gloria Solomon, Janet Spittler, Greg Stephens, Jo Nell Wells, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood, Qiao Zhang

**Senators Excused**

Martin Blessinger, Brian Clinnin, Rebecca Dority, Lynn Flahive, Tracy Hanna, Bi Ying Hu, Joddy Murray, Johnny Nhan, Jan Quesada, Michael Skinner, Loren Spice, Michael Strausz, Angela Thompson, David Vanderwerken, Stephen Weis, Dan Williams

**Senators Absent**

Julie Baker, Brian Clinnin, San-ky Kim, Steve Palko

**Guests Present**

Provost Nowell Donovan, Kathy Cavins-Tull (Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs), Olivia Caridi (Skiff Reporter), Ryan Tiglas (SGA Academic Affairs Committee), Josh Simpson (SGA VP), Rachel Adcock (SGA Academic Affairs Committee), Lauren Sharp (SGA Student Relations Committee)

**Call to Order**

Chair Marie Schein opened the meeting at 3:30. The minutes of the October 4, 2012 Senate meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections.

**Senate Business**

1. An announcement was made regarding the imminent initiation of e-SPOTs.

**Guest Presentations**

1. SGA representatives made a proposal regarding distribution of free scantrons and blue books to students. The written proposal was distributed to all faculty and select staff by email prior to the Senate meeting. Briefly, the Provost's office has agreed to provide \$25,000 annually to SGA to purchase the testing materials, and SGA has proposed that faculty would, on a voluntary basis, distribute the testing materials to students as needed. Distribution of testing materials will also be available through the library if individual faculty members do not wish to be accountable for distribution. Testing materials, including blue books and all sizes of scantrons, will be made available by SGA to any interested faculty at the beginning of the semester. The timing and methods of distribution of the testing materials would be up to the individual faculty. Some discussion ensued regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal, as well as concerns of student responsibility. Approval of SGA's proposal was moved and seconded, and the proposal passed with a strong majority.
  
2. Carrie Leverenz and Gloria Solomon presented findings from a survey on the evaluation of University service conducted by the Tenure, Promotion, and Grievance Committee. Design of the survey was discussed, noting that the response rate was over 61%, and descriptive findings were discussed. Most faculty members perceive their service load as light or reasonable, but 1/3 saw it as heavy. Many felt the service expectations were unclear. General agreement was found to promote flexibility in weighting of the three primary areas of responsibility (research, teaching, and service). Recommendations were made based on the findings of the survey, and may be found in the presentation slides of the committee's report. Q&A followed. Most respondents were tenure-track, and the committee is following up with non-tenure-track faculty this year. The committee's recommendations included the following:
  - a. The university should affirm that together with teaching and research/creative activity, service is a valuable part of the responsibilities of faculty members.
  - b. Faculty evaluation policies at all levels—merit, tenure, promotion—reflect that service (appropriate to each faculty rank, department, and college) is necessary and valuable.
  - c. While the nature of service responsibilities may vary, departments should a) take into consideration college criteria for service expectations and b) seek equivalency in service expectations among their faculty.
  - d. We recognize the importance of University service at Texas Christian University; thus departments should encourage service to the University and to the Profession.
  - e. Faculty members prefer flexibility in how the elements of the traditional triad of teaching/research and creative activity/service are weighted and evaluated; departments and colleges should address whether such flexibility would be appropriate.

- f. It is the responsibility of individuals to provide evidence of their service so that such work can be assessed meaningfully; the mere listing of service duties is not sufficient for judging the quality of this work.
  - g. In an effort to make service as meaningful as possible, committees and their structures should be examined to ensure that committee members have sufficient responsibility without being overburdened; administrators should consider eliminating or reducing the size of committees that do not have sufficient responsibilities.
  - h. It is the responsibility of the Chair (or designee) to determine who assigns service so that faculty members do not disproportionately redirect energies to service thus interfering with their ability to fulfill expectations with regard to teaching, research or creative activity.
  - i. Further study is needed in three areas:
    - i. Assignment and evaluation of service for full-time non-tenure track faculty (current charge)
    - ii. The impact of service on promotion
    - iii. Gender differences in the kinds of service performed, especially in relation to gender differences in the rate of promotion
3. Jackie Lambiase (Journalism) briefly discussed the needs of the 200 plus veterans on campus and the activities of the student veterans task force, of which she is a member.
  4. Jeffrey Todd (Modern Language Studies) and Komla Aggor (Spanish and Hispanic Studies) discussed a "Celebrating Our Differences: A TCU Language and Culture Festival," projected to take place Sept. 24-26, 2013 and open to the general public. Its primary objective is to enhance awareness of and sensitivity to human cultural diversity among faculty and staff at TCU and to proclaim the personal and professional benefits of language study. The celebration will include both entertainment and educational activities, such as food (Taste of the World), ethnic music, dance, art/artifacts, ethnic fashions, foreign films, student theater performance, and a poetry slam. Also discussion panels on various topics will be offered. The celebration will be inter-disciplinary. Jeff and Komla hope to integrate it with the 2013 Common Reading and it is expected that other international events in the same time frame will simultaneously be promoted.
  5. In open forum, Greg Friedman brought up the issue of residency requirements for transfer students. The difficulty arises when some transfer students and military veterans come to TCU with upper division credit hours, those courses are accepted by the student's major department to satisfy particular courses, leaving them with few courses remaining in their major, but with the need to fill more hours to satisfy the University's in-residence requirement. They must then take courses outside their major to fulfill the University

residency requirement. Discussion followed of the relative merits and drawbacks of making exceptions to the residency requirement.

The Faculty Senate meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.