

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
06 September 2012
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Akin, Bob, Anderson, Ronald, Annunziata, Onofrio, Baker, Julie, Barkman, Arnie, Bedford, David, Blessinger, Martin, Burgess, Jon, Chapa, Cynthia, Clinnin, Brian, Dority, Rebecca, Estes, Richard, Farmer, Billy, Friedman, Greg, Fuentes, Sarah, Geider, Jeffrey, Hawley, Diane, Kim, San-Ky, Ledbetter, Andrew, Legatski, Ted, Lockwood, Suzy, Mcgettigan, Joan, Mcnertney, Ed, Michaelides, Stathis, Moore, Linda, Murray, Joddy, Nhan, Johnny, Nugent, Hylida, Polzer, Katie, Quesada, Jan, Ramasesh, Ranga, Rittby, Magnus, Sandell, David, Sawyer, Chris, Schein, Marie, Schrodt, Paul, Scott, Krista, Shorter, Alan, Simpson, R. Eric, Skinner, Michael, Spice, Loren, Stephens, Gregory, Strausz, Michael, Tarver, Australia (sub for David Vanderwerken), Weis, Stephen, Wells, Jo Nell, Williams, Dan, Williams, Scott, Wood, Barbara, Zhang, Qiao.

Senators Excused

Gloria Solomon, Lynn Flahive, David Vanderwerken, Dianna McFarland, Tracy Hanna, Bi Ying Hu

Senators Absent

Ronald Anderson, Bruce Carroll, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Steve Palko, Janet Spittler, Angela Thompson

Call to Order

Faculty Senate Chair Marie Schein called the meeting to order and welcomed senators and distinguished guests to the first senate meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year.

The minutes from the May 3, 2012 faculty senate meeting were unanimously approved without objection or amendment.

Chancellor Victor Boschini was introduced and offered welcoming remarks.

He discussed TCU's partnership with Paschal High School. Senator Bob Akin is charging a committee to consider ways to engage more with PHS. Chancellor Boschini noted that PHS wants to engage more with us.

He also discussed the campaign for TCU. The original fund raising goal was \$175 million, and to date \$405 million has been raised, including \$103 million dedicated exclusively to scholarships.

The chancellor also discussed the goal of raising sophomore retention to 90%. Currently sophomore retention is at 89.7%, so this should not be a difficult goal to reach. Average sophomore retention at 4-year universities across the U.S. is approximately 70%. The means for us to accomplish this goal is to "share the love."

Sixty-five thousand people visited TCU this past summer, including many who came to attend various camps and training experiences.

One of our main goals is to keep the freshman entering class to a reasonable size, one which we can accommodate with the present state of our staff and facilities. Using the standard metric of 12th day enrollment, we met that goal by a margin of 16 students. We will continue to pursue with careful planning appropriately-sized freshman classes in future. Chancellor Boschini complimented the faculty, noting that we give great instruction, and offered congratulations. He also noted the hire of 82 new faculty, including 17 in new positions, as well as 106 new support staff.

He announced TCU's selection by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as a "great college to work for." He noted that the only area in which we were not recognized was diversity, and asked for the Senate to consider ideas and thoughts for how to strengthen that area for TCU.

An ongoing examination of employee benefits at TCU is underway. He stated that we are very rich in benefits now, noting as an example the tuition remission program, which currently costs the University nearly \$8 million annually. Another example offered was the 11.5% retirement contribution offered by TCU to faculty, which is quite high compared to many other universities. Chancellor Boschini noted that the time to examine such issues is before there's a crisis, hence the exploration currently underway. We all need to be prudent and to be great stewards of TCU resources.

Finally, he discussed the VIA and Academy of Tomorrow, which will do for the Intellectual Commons what the Campus Commons did for the other side of campus. We are in early planning stages of these efforts.

Provost Nowell Donovan was then introduced. He told of showing the fire chief around the new stadium. He also mentioned that he would be talking about the new Intellectual Commons and the Academy for Tomorrow at the upcoming faculty assembly on September 11th. He spoke passionately about our need to remain relevant, and that we must remain ever vigilant so as not to lose the public trust.

Marie Schein then introduced the Skiff reporter, the new Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and the new and returning senators.

Brent Folan, SGA President, then took the floor. He challenged the faculty to embrace and reinforce the TCU student creed: “As TCU students we commit to excellence by serving with respect, learning with passion, and leading with integrity.” He discussed the SGA's goals:

1. Reinforcing the student creed with aluminum plaques placed around campus.
2. Opening *Intercom* to be more representative of all groups.
3. Establishing a student memorial.
4. Reducing the cost of copying for students...current cost is .05-.10 cents per page, and he wants to see that reduced to .005 cents per page.
5. Working to bring about a Big 12 Leadership Conference.

Kim Weber, Chair of the Staff Assembly, was then introduced and took the floor. Weber

1. Announced the faculty/staff family picnic.
2. Discussed the history of the Staff Assembly, which has roughly one representative for every 20 staff members. Weber noted that their desire is to be part of the solution. The SA has seven committees. She noted accomplishments of the SA, such as establishing parity for exempt/non-exempt employee benefits.

Susan Oakley, TCU's Manager of Training, was then introduced. She referenced the TCU's inclusion as one of this year's great colleges to work for by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and offered her thanks to the faculty. On behalf of the HR Office, she expressed appreciation for the faculty's willingness to support various initiatives, such as mediation, crucial skills gaining, etc.

Senator Suzy Lockwood then took the floor to review the way in which the Faculty Senate conducts its business. Her remarks are captured in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

Provost Donovan, in an observation on how the senate works, asked how many senators are invited to take part in the dean's meetings with chairs. He noted that it should be so, since the senators represent the view of the faculty of the university. We might want to explore mechanisms for eliminating this gap.

Senator Dan Williams then gave the Past Chair's report on the previous year's activities and accomplishments of the Faculty Senate. It is easier to be past chair than chair! Last year a couple

of large events went forward. First, we finally passed a resolution on the evaluation of teaching. Key point is that faculty must be involved in the evaluation of teaching. It can't be all e-spots, there must be other methods and means. That report is going to all colleges and chairs, but it must come from the faculty first...we need to decide how to be evaluated. The second large thing is e-spots. The University has adopted SmartEval, and the questionnaire. This semester is our first full semester of e-spotting.

During the 2011-2012 academic year the Faculty Senate also passed four other resolutions: wireless access (equal for PCs and Macs), inclusivity (all faculty ought to be treated the same, no false hierarchy of ranks), a resolution calling for administrative review (no mechanism for that right now, except for the Provost who has embraced it for himself), and fourth, a large thank you to the Chancellor and Provost on how they handled the football team crisis last spring.

Other finished, unfinished, and continuing business was mentioned, including a proposal to expand the FSEC by one webmaster, and one at-large member who would be elected by the faculty. Continuing concern for how service is evaluated was also mentioned.

Dean Ray Brown then took the floor. He presented information regarding enrollments and entering student qualifications, referencing reports that he distributed to the Senators in attendance.

Demographic report (11th day) on freshman class: N=1853 (versus 1869 last year); SAT Equivalent >1800 for first time at TCU. Do the math on admit rate: last year was 37% (fewer than 50% is outstanding), this year back up to about 41%, still very good. ACT at about 27.4, first time we've cracked the 27 threshold. This is uncharted territory for us. Starting to be seen, unofficially at least, as one of only two "highly selective" schools in TX (Rice is the other one). Our enrollment is 38.26% male, which Brown sees as the toughest thing for him to deal with, that is, how to get better balance in the male/female enrollment rates. For 30 years, the ratio has been between 37% and 43% male, a very tight band. We have commissioned a study (just started) to find out empirically what it is about TCU that keeps us in that band. This year we enrolled fewer students of color, which is a big problem. The percentage had reached almost 20%, but this year dropped back a couple of percentage points. For only the second time in TCU's history, the freshman class will be less than 50% Texan. For example, there is a 15% increase from CA. Betsy Hays (admissions counselor) has a lot to do with that.

Report on Academic Success and Retention of Students Entering With Dual Credit Courses vs. No Dual Credit Courses: Contrary to his expectations, students with dual credit courses are not inferior students by any means.

He then responded to questions from the senators. Issues discussed included whether data were analyzed by department (no, but good idea), implications of gender-based differences, and situations (such as in the arts) where standardized testing may not provide a relevant estimate of a student's potential.

Catherine Wehlburg and Ed McNertny were then introduced. Owing to technical difficulties, they were unable to show their electronic presentation and video. Nonetheless, they reviewed the current status of SACS re-accreditation and timeline of how it will proceed. We probably will have a few issues in some areas, such as institutional effectiveness, but we are in good shape at this stage of the process. They also briefly discussed the Quality Enhancement Plan: a choice was made (Global Citizenship), and we will be moving forward on that in anticipation of the SACS re-accreditation team's visit. We will be hearing much more about that.

Marie Schein then announced the Faculty Assembly on Sept. 11th and strongly encouraged faculty senators to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary (2012-2013)