

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
02 October 2014
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Akin, Robert; Bedford, David; Begnoche, David; Busbey, Art; Chapa, Cynthia; Clinnin, Brian; Esposito, Phil; Farmer, Billy; Friedman, Greg; Fry, Julie; Geider, Jeffrey; Gil, Dan; Gollaher, Timothy; Jenkins, David; Jenschke, Monica; Jimerson, Jo Beth; Kim, San-ky; Krochmal, Max; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lovett, John; Mann, Steven; McFarland, Dianna; 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; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Greg; Warrington, Patricia; Whitworth, Keith; Williams, Daniel; Wood, Barbara; Zhang, Qiao.

Senators Excused

Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Griffeth, Robin; Kerstetter, Todd; Lockwood, Suzy; McGettigan, Joan; Meier, William; Skinner, Michael;

Senators Absent

Argenbright, Kristi; Engler, Jennifer; Hammad, Hanan; Neilson, Robert H.; Palko, Steffen; Petrovich, James; Woodworth, Steven

Guests Present

Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, Vice-Chancellor Karen Baker, Bob Vigeland (chair) and other members of the Faculty Senate Task Force on the TCU Promise, Amanda Nickerson (Director of Transfer Admissions), Faith Perkins (Director of HR), Catherine Wehlburg (Associate Provost, Institutional Effectiveness), Ed McNertney (QEP Director), and Rhonda Hatcher (Faculty Athletics Representative).

Call to Order

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

Introductions, Information Items, and Announcements

3. N/A

Old Business

4. N/A

New Business & Presentations

5. Amanda Nickerson made a brief presentation about the attributes of the transfer students to TCU and various means and methods by which we are encouraging their success at TCU. A related video will be provided to all faculty by email.
6. Faith Perkins (HR Director) presented information about key issues in TCU's benefits provisions. Changes to the open enrollment procedures for 2015 were also presented. All employees of the University will be required (this year) to specifically select all elements of their benefits. All employees should have recently received a mailed summary of their compensation and benefits, along with the cost of those benefits. All will receive an open enrollment reference guide to assist in making benefits choices. Personnel in the HR office are also eager to work with employees to help them make the best choices possible on their benefits elections. 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.
 - a. Chancellor Boschini added brief remarks in support of the open enrollment procedures.
 - b. He pointed out that no benefits are changing for current employees for 2015, adding (and emphasizing) that the employee may select their current plan or change to a new plan as their circumstances may dictate.
 - c. Healthcare costs are rising (as is easy to see), and TCU is working diligently to find ways to minimize the effect of those rising prices on employees.
7. Provost Donovan made brief remarks responding to the Core Curriculum Program Review.
8. Bob Akin and Rhonda Hatcher gave a brief update regarding the Statement on NCAA Division I Restructuring made by the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. They discussed a proposed new governance structure, motivated by increasing student demand for a "piece of the pie" -- cost of attendance, other financial remuneration, and so forth.
9. Preliminary information from the Task Force on the TCU Promise, chaired by Dr. Bob Vigeland (Accounting). The purpose of the task force 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 presentation was made in executive session of the Faculty Senate, under conditions of confidentiality. The work of the task force is ongoing.

The Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary