

**TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
THE CHAMBERS, BROWN-LUPTON UNIVERSITY UNION  
MARCH 2, 2017

3:30-5 PM

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of minutes from February 2, 2016
- III. Remarks by Jesús Castro-Balbi, Chair
- IV. Remarks by Victor Boschini, Chancellor
- V. Remarks by Nowell Donovan, Provost
- VI. New business
  - a) Committee on University Committees – Bill Meier, Chair
  - b) Educational Evaluation Committee – Julie Fry, Chair
  - c) Governance Committee – Mike Skinner, Chair
  - d) Special Committee on Academic Profile Update and Motion (1) – Jesús Castro-Balbi, Chair
  - e) Faculty Relations Committee and Special Committee on Academic Profile Joint Motions (2, 3)  
- Andrew Ledbetter and Jesús Castro-Balbi, Chairs
  - f) Senate Elections – Greg Friedman, Assistant Secretary
  - g) University Budget Update - Brian Gutierrez, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
- VII. Adjournment

(Motions on Page 2)

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Motions:

1. Recognizing that TCU is currently engaged in and earns relevancy through both the creation and the dissemination of knowledge; the institution's commitment to the teacher-scholar model; that TCU is a doctoral / research institution per the Carnegie Foundation's classification; and that research and teaching are mutually beneficial activities of the faculty, the Senate recommends to review and expand the institution's mission statement to include research.

Special Committee on Academic Profile

2. Graduate students and programs are a worthy investment that enhance an institution's research capabilities and therefore support both undergraduate and faculty research. While the historical commitment to undergraduate education will continue to define TCU, strengthening graduate students and programs is a goal stated in the Vision in Action's First Cardinal Principle and would increase the institution's ability to recruit top faculty scholars who in turn would inspire generations of students and future leaders. Further, the Faculty Senate's Faculty Relations Committee documented the link between the proportion of graduate students and higher academic reputation and rankings. Therefore, emphasizing the significance of graduate research for the institution and the goal of raising TCU's academic reputation, the Senate recommends to develop graduate programs and increase the proportion of graduate students at TCU.

Senate Faculty Relations Committee and Special Committee on Academic Profile

3. Over the last decade, full-time non-tenure-track faculty increased by +73.1% while full-time tenured and tenure-track (T/TT) faculty ranks grew by 23.5%, causing the ratio of tenure-track to non-tenure-track faculty to fall from 76.6% to 70.0%. To be sure, such increases in faculty numbers are extraordinary for any institution. However, looking at all USNWR-ranked private institutions, the Faculty Senate's Faculty Relations Committee demonstrated an inverse correlation between the percentage of T/TT faculty and rank. Tenure is the basis of the compact between the faculty and the institution. It also is key to generating research, beyond teaching, advising, and service. The creation of knowledge enlightens teaching, and brings tangible and intangible worth to the institution, in turn enhancing the institution's recruiting and retaining capabilities for faculty as well as students. Further, research is essential to the institution being relevant and worthwhile to society today and into the future. Therefore, emphasizing the significance of faculty tenure for the institution and the goal of raising TCU's academic reputation, the Senate recommends to reverse current hiring trends and increase the proportion of tenured and tenured-track faculty.

Senate Faculty Relations Committee and Special Committee on Academic Profile