

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
March 02, 2006
Justin Board Room, Kelly Alumni Center

Minutes

Senators present

Joan Aker, Arnie Barkman, Donelle Barnes, David Bedford, Art Busbey, Carolyn Cagle, Dennis Cheek, Lyn Dart, Blaise Ferrandino, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Andy Fort, David Grant, Jack Hill, Jack Jones, Nadia Lahutsky, Steve Levering, Suzy Lockwood, John Lovett, Linda Moore, Sheri Neill, Bob Neilson, Dianna Newbern, Don Nichols, C. A. Quarles, Dick Rinewalt, Mags Rittby, Greg Stephens, Ranae Stetson, Becky Taylor, Molly Weinburgh, Dan Williams, Melissa Young, Stuart Youngblood

Senators excused

Bonnie Blackwell (sabbatical), Joe Butler, Sharon Fairchild, Sally Fortenberry, Elizabeth Gillaspay, Charles Hannon, Paul King, Chuck LaMendola, Ed McNertney, Helen Morrison, Carol Thompson (sabbatical), David Vanderwerken

Senators absent

Alan Dettlaff, Jennifer Engler, Joel Mitchell, T. J. Walsh

Guests

Victor Boschini (Chancellor), Nowell Donovan (Provost), Talia Sampson (TCU Skiff),

Chair Andy Fort called the meeting to order at 3:35. He welcomed guests.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the 26 January 2006 Senate meeting were approved.

Old Business

1. Update on plus/minus grading (David Grant)

Senator Grant addressed the Senate regarding the progress of +/- grading. He distributed a handout of FAQ's from the Academic Excellence Committee. In a meeting with the Harris School of Nursing, the issue of whether or not +/- should be optional for faculty was raised by some faculty.

The Academic Excellence Committee is planning to offer the TCU Faculty Senate a document outlining proposed catalog language, and then a motion prior, near the end of the spring semester.

New Business

1. Report on the February Board of Trustees Meeting (Chancellor Boschini)

Chancellor Boschini reported that the fund raising campaign for the Education building is ahead of plans. Funds raised exceed what was planned, and even exceed projected costs after Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Katrina increased the demand, and therefore the price, of many building materials. Further, TCU is well ahead of its total fund raising goals for the year.

Chancellor Boschini spoke of a need for leadership vision that comes from the faculty, not just the Chancellor. A “pool” of ideas for the campaign was solicited through the various units, including ideas generated by VIA. This pool totaled \$630 million. From this approximately \$250 million of projects were chosen as the goal for the capital campaign. The \$250 million goal will be revised approximately half way through the campaign.

Chancellor Boschini stated that TCU’s main selling point is that it offers a world-class, value-centered university experience. This refers to the combination of academic rigor, a personal teacher-scholar model, and an ethical, socially active environment. The Chancellor spoke of pursuing areas in which TCU can and is competing at the top level. Music and the Schieffer school of Journalism are just two examples.

Chancellor Boschini stated that TCU needs to rely relatively more on building its endowment, and relatively less on tuition increases, in the future. Establishing endowment funds for maintenance of new buildings, not just their construction, is part of this new emphasis.

Chancellor Boschini then overviewed the categories of items in the proposed capital campaign. Specific goals include promoting our top programs. A second specific goal is to increase funding of specific scholarships. A third goal is to attract outstanding faculty through endowed chairs. Upgrading the physical plant (ex. buildings), athletics, and increasing the Annual Fund round the categories.

The Board of Trustees responded favorably to the proposed capital campaign goals. 14 of 14 Trustees asked to be on the campaign committee agreed.

Finally, Chancellor Boschini told the Senate that TCU is interviewing a full-time chief Investment Officer (CIO) to overview the management of TCU’s endowment. Currently, a committee of the Board of Trustees meets occasionally to oversee the management of

the time. The CIO's salary will be paid out the Endowment. The fund will still be professionally managed by outside firms.

2. Remarks on likely Faculty Governance Committee motion (Nadia Lahutsky)

A proposed motion describing a motion to amend Section II.2 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws was distributed. Senator Lahutsky reported that, based on prior e-mail exchanges, it appears there is little support for a smaller Senate. A majority of those providing feedback were not in support of the at-large position. Therefore, the FGC's motion keeps the Senate at the same size, but does away with the at-large position. A procedure for filling seats coming open because of resignations, etc., is also in the motion.

Suggested additional steps were also included in the motion. Senator Rittby asked why the draft used the term; "*a recent election*" instead of "*the last election*" in the section describing replacement of seats coming open. Nadia Lahutsky stated that there may not have been an open seat (i.e. election) for the unit in question during the last election.

Senator Ferrandino stated that the need for at-large seats is appropriate for bodies in which there are many competing parties, some of which are too small to win in any one unit, but significant overall. The Senate is not such a body.

The Senate moved to vote on the motion. The motion (below in Garamond font) passed.

The Faculty Governance Committee has in its first charge to continue the work of several previous FGC's and "Review and revise Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate bylaws." We had a lengthy and productive discussion at the Oct. 27, 2005 Senate meeting focused mostly on two issues: at-large positions and the size of the Senate. This discussion was followed up with an email from the Chair of the FGC inviting all Senators to share their views. Twenty-five responses were received. Based on what we learned in the discussion and from the responses, the **FGC brings to the Senate a motion that includes the proposed revisions to Bylaws II.2. This revision consists of: 1) a new method of determining membership, 2) the support procedures to implement this new method, and 3) a simplification of the section 2 language.**

***** *Start of Bylaws change* *****

Section 2. Memberships and Elections

A. Membership

The Faculty Senate shall consist of members representing the academic units of TCU: AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, M. J. Neeley School of Business, College of Communication, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Science and Engineering. Each academic unit shall be allocated one Senator for every nine full-time faculty in the unit. An additional seat will be allocated for 5 or more full-time faculty beyond multiples of nine.

B. Term of Office and Elections

1. The Faculty Election Committee (Constitution II.2.D) shall have the following duties:
 - a. determine who is eligible to vote for and to serve on the Faculty Senate;
 - b. oversee the election process;
 - c. determine, every three years, the apportionment of Senators to colleges based on the official faculty list received from the Office of the Provost;
 - d. monitor attendance of Senators at meetings and take corrective action regarding absences if necessary;
 - e. appoint Senators for academic units unable to fill their allocated seats or which have Senators who have resigned. The appointee must have been a candidate in a recent election but may be from any academic unit. The Faculty Election Committee shall strive to maintain proportional distribution among academic units.
2. The term of office of elected senators shall be three years; appointed Senators shall complete the term to which they were appointed.
3. The elections shall proceed as follows:
 - a. By the seventh week of Spring Semester, the Faculty Election Committee shall contact by email all eligible faculty requesting their response concerning willingness to serve on the Senate.
 - b. By the ninth week, a list of candidates for each academic unit shall be created from all the names of that unit's willing faculty. Voting instructions shall specify that a valid ballot will contain votes up to the number of open positions in the unit.
 - c. The Faculty Election Committee shall resolve any inconclusive election in an academic unit by conducting a second election. The ballot shall consist of at least one more candidate than the number of seats to be filled. These candidates shall be those who previously received the most votes. Any inconclusive results of a second election shall be resolved by the Faculty Election Committee.
 - d. Election results shall be announced to the faculty by the twelfth week of the Semester.

******* End of Bylaws change *******

To ensure an orderly transition from the current Bylaws to the proposed ones, the following additional steps should be enacted:

1. Those senators currently in office will finish out their terms.
2. The revised Bylaws will be used as the governing document of the Senate for the purpose of elections in Spring 2007, while the 2006-2007 Faculty Governance Committee works to bring the Constitution (II.2.A.2) in line with the Bylaws and have the new material printed in the official [Handbook for Faculty and Staff](#).
3. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall review the effectiveness of the revised Bylaws in three years.
4. The three-year cycle of the apportionment process shall begin in 2007.

3. Committee on Committees motion regarding ex-officio (Dick Rinewalt)

Senator Rinewalt presented a motion to change the status certain non-faculty members from “ex officio” to “liaison”.

Senator Quarles asked whether this motion precludes future changes. Senator Rinewalt stated that it did not. Senator Jack Hill asked when this would take effect. Senator Rinewalt stated that it would take effect in the fall of 2006 with the new handbook. Senator Barkman stated that this current proposal describes how most committees operated in practice.

The motion (below in **Garamond** font) passed by voice vote.

 Resolved, the current Ex-Officio members of all University Committees reflect the following designations as stated on the chart below.

Rationale:

1. Ex-Officio members are expected to participate and vote on matters of the committee.
2. Liaison members are expected to participate but are not allowed to vote on matters of the committee.
3. Appropriately designating these members as either Ex-Officio or Liaison will more accurately reflect their current role and responsibilities on the committee.

Committee	COC liaison	Currently Ex-Officio with Vote	Requested change for handbook Ex-Officio = voting Liaison = non-voting
Academic Appeals	Dick		
Animal Care	Joel	Fox, Kaufman, McCracken, Melhart	Ex-Officio all but McCracken and Melhart Liaison
Compliance and Aff Action	Sally	Barnes & Laster	Liaison
Computer and Telecomm	Dick	Bouchard, Cook, Edmondson, TenEyck	Liaison
Env Health & Safety	Arnie	Cobb & Laster	Ex-Officio
Evaluation	Lyn		
Honors Council	Sally	Watson	Ex-Officio
Honors Week	Helen	Record, Watson, & Dias	Ex-Officio

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Committee	COC liaison	Currently Ex-Officio with Vote	Requested change for handbook Ex-Officio = voting Liaison = non-voting
Institutional Biosafety	Art	Fox, UTHSC, & McCracken	Ex-Officio
Institutional Review Board	Paul	Fox, Melhart and Director of mental health, off-campus rep from Alcon	Liaison
Intercollegiate Athletics	Joel	Girton, Hatcher, & Morrison	Liaison
International Students	Art	Kucko, Singleton, Soulleire, & Branch	Liaison
Library	Arnie	Koelker, Seal, Melhart	Ex-Officio for Deans of Library Melhart-Liaison
Mediators	Paul	Add Barnes as liaison	Liaison
Research & Creative Activit	Lyn	Fox & Melhart	Liaison
Scholarships & Financial Aid	Helen	Robinson & Scott	Liaison
Student Conduct & Grievance	Lyn	Robinson	Liaison
Student Organizations	Helen	Turner	Ex-Officio
Student Publications	Paul	Slater, Tomason, & 3 students	Ex-Officio
**Teaching, Learning & Instructional Tech.	Art	Kitchens & Melhart	Liaison
Traffic Regs & Appeals	Dick	Williams	Ex-Officio
Undergraduate Adm & Retention	Arnie	Brown & Scott	Ex-Officio
University Court	Carolyn	Robinson and Turner	Ex-Officio
Budget Advisory	Carolyn		

* Formerly the Instructional Development Committee

4. COIA report (Linda Moore)

Senator Linda Moore addressed the Senate regarding the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. The COIA has been asked to work with the NCAA presidential task force on better integrating athletics with the academic mission of universities. NCAA President, Myles Brand established this task force.

One issue the COIA is examining is commercialization in sports. This includes the issue of scheduling of games based on broadcaster's needs. Coaching salaries is another issue. The COIA is also looking into the issue of race and gender in athletic hiring.

The COIA is examining academic progress reports (APR) by school and sport. There is a proposal to have low APR scores result in NCAA penalties. Only three of TCU's sports are below NCAA standards.

The new system of basing eligibility on both high school grades and test scores seems to be working better than the old (test score only) system. Senator Barkman asked about certain schools mentioned in the Wall Street Journal that had vastly inflated athlete grades. Linda Moore stated that the NCAA has stopped counting some of those schools grades. Senator Lahutsky asked where the "bridge" programs for athletes are offered. Linda Moore stated that they are offered here at TCU.

Senator Moore stated that the national trend seems to be greater faculty involvement in NCAA academic changes.

5. Report from Tenure Promotion, and Grievance Committee (Stu Youngblood)

Senator Youngblood talked about how service and advising should be incorporated into the Tenure Promotion, and Grievance (TP&G) process. The TP&G committee is working on a proposed model to address this.

The TP&G committee is relatively close to having a revision to the current grievance policy. The current policy, as indicated on page 38 of the TCU Faculty-Staff Handbook, is very difficult to follow. The goal is to have a motion with much clearer wording by the end of the year. In addition, the likely motion will address certain shortcoming in the current model. In addition, expectations regarding advising and service will also be more clearly stated. The process used in developing the latest conflict resolution policy is serving as a model.

New Business

1. Report on Faculty Assembly on Advancement (Blaise Ferrandino)

Senator Ferrandino reported on the Faculty Assembly on Advancement of February 16th. Minutes will be posted on the Faculty Senate web next to the Regular Senate Meeting minutes (calendar page). Senator Ferrandino reported that Don Whelan (Vice Chancellor of Finance) spoke of the synergy between faculty and the Advancement Office. Faculty are a major source of potential capital campaign ideas and lists of contacts. They are also a vital link in getting donors interested in projects.

Don Whelan said the feedback generated was very beneficial. Mr. Whelan stated that there are two main goals for advancement, 1) fund raising, and 2) alumni relations. Alumni relations are necessary, of course, for good long-term fundraising. The Advancement office has tried to be more efficient in its targeting of potential donors. Donors are being better matched with projects.

2. Update on Common Reading program (Andy Fort)

A steering committee has been established for the Common Reading Program.

3. TCU Frog House (Andy Fort)

TCU's junior class is building the Frog House. Senator Fort stated that there is still time to participate.

4. Brief Remarks by Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan briefly addressed the Senate. He stated that he is quite enthused about the upcoming capital campaign potential.

Executive Session regarding Honorary Degrees

At 3:38 the Senate adjourned into executive session to consider a motion from the executive committee to endorse a nomination for honorary degree, and forward that nomination to the Chancellor. The Senate returned to regular session at 3:48.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm. A reception for Senators at Chancellor Boschini's house followed.

John Lovett
Secretary
TCU Faculty Senate