

Faculty Senate Meeting
March 3, 2005
Minutes

Senators present: Joan Aker, Arnie Barkman, Donelle Barnes, David Bedford, Bonnie Blackwell, Joseph Butler,* Carolyn Cagle, Dennis Cheek, Alan Dettlaff, Sharon Fairchild, Blaise Ferrandino, Andy Fort, Sally Fortenberry,* Rob Garnett, George Gilbert, David Grant, Charles Hannon, Jack Hill, Jack Jones, Paul King, Nadia Lahutsky, Steve Levering, Suzy Lockwood, John Lovett, Ed McNertney,* Joel Mitchell,* Linda Moore, Robert Neilson, Don Nichols, C.A. Quarles,* Ranga Ramasesh,* Dick Rinewalt, Magnus Rittby, Bill Ryan, Ellen Page Shelton, Carol Thompson, T.J. Walsh, Peggy Watson, Molly Weinberg, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams,* Stu Youngblood.

*excused

Senators absent: Gene Smith, David Cross, Thomas Guderjan, Elizabeth Gillaspay, Ranae Stetson, Melissa Young

Guests:

Skiff reporter Jessica Chandler, Catherine Wehlburg, Provost Nowell Donovan.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the January 27th meeting were approved with no changes.

Old Business

1. Conflict Resolution Policy

Chair Ferrandino asked Senator Stu Youngblood to report on the progress of the Conflict Resolution Policy. Senator Youngblood took the floor and explained that the Task Force is currently in the process of meeting informally with Deans. The Deans have received the document that the Senate approved and they have received information on mediation and how it works. The Task Force members are also collecting data on risk management. Their intention is to put together the best package possible so that the Provost Council will readily accept it. Senator Youngblood expressed optimism that the Council would support it. After receiving the Council's endorsement, the policy will then be brought back to the Senate for final approval.

He next described the questions that the Deans had concerning the policy. Their concerns were about what types of things would get mediated under the CRP, and the possible undermining of administrators' authority. In response to a question regarding the approval procedure, Senator Youngblood stated that the CRP would first be presented to the Provost's Council, from there it would go to the Provost and the Chancellor. Chair Ferrandino added that the policy would go to the University Council for final approval. He further pointed out that this is new territory, since we are trying to hammer out a policy with both faculty and administrators.

2. Motion to endorse the COIA report.

Chair Ferrandino gave the floor to Senator Linda Moore to discuss the outline of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics recommendations, which had been sent to all Senators. She noted that this is only an outline and that the entire document is considerably longer. Senator Moore mentioned that the full document is available (on the Senate Web page) to anyone interested. She pointed out that many of the issues presented by the COIA have already been addressed by TCU and that we look good compared to other universities on many of these issues. She then reviewed the various categories of the recommendations: admissions processes, scholarships, curricular integrity, scheduling of competitions, and advising. In the category of scholarships, she noted that the Coalition agreed to recommend a five-year commitment on scholarships, which most schools already do since athletes have five years of eligibility. The Coalition further recommended that only an academic person other than a coach could revoke a scholarship. Senator Moore noted that the Coalition had a considerable discussion about need-based scholarships, which is still up for further discussion. On the subject of curricular integrity, the Coalition is concerned about athletes getting both negative and positive academic treatment.

Senator Moore highlighted the following other issues: allowing coaches to teach credit courses, giving credit for physical education courses, and dealing with the problem of the amount of time students spend on athletic events and miss class. Senator Moore stated that the recommendation to form a Faculty Athletics Representative-led task force has been withdrawn. As for the category of academic advising, Senator Moore emphasized that the Coalition's recommendations are considered best practices and we are not obligated to do them. Senator Moore responded to various questions from Senators, and a discussion on advising of student athletes ensued. She described the advising procedure for athletes at TCU. Finally, Senator Arnie Barkman brought to the Senate's attention a recent newspaper article on the academic performance and graduation rates of athletes in various universities, pointing out that TCU placed 6th out of 14 in graduation rate rankings of universities in Conference USA.

Chair Ferrandino made the motion to endorse the COIA report. The motion passed.

New Business

1. Motions from the Faculty Governance Committee

Chair Ferrandino reminded the Senate of the charge to the committee, which this motion addresses: "Reconsider the rationale for "at large" Senators, and related questions concerning the optimal size of the Senate (including the desired number and size of standing Senate committees)". Chair Ferrandino explained that he would like to put all four motions on the floor at the same time in order to facilitate discussion. He then reviewed each motion.

Senator Carolyn Cagle took the floor and thanked the committee members for their work on these motions. The floor was opened for discussion. At the request of Senator Nadia Lahutsky, Senator Paul King explained the history of at-large positions and why it is now recommended they be eliminated. Senator George Gilbert asked if the idea was to approve the motions and then for the committee to return with the By-laws language later. Senator David Grant pointed out that, if the Senate is going to vote on a change in the By-laws, we should have the specific By-law sentence that is being changed. It was confirmed

that the Senate would discuss the changes proposed and that the language for the new By-law would be brought back to the Senate for approval. Discussion took place regarding the issue of presenting the By-law language at a later date. Senator Rob Garnett pointed out that, if we are not going to approve the actual By-laws language at this meeting, the elections that are about to begin will be done under the old rules.

Discussion turned to motion number three regarding the elimination of the notion of divisions of AddRan College. Senator Peggy Watson reminded the Senate that, in the past, the election of Senators from AddRan was always done by divisions, that is, divided between Humanities and Social Sciences. Senator Don Nichols explained that the committee was concerned that the sentence under discussion was inappropriate because it directed a unit how to determine its method of electing members. Other Senators discussed the impact of proportional representation and its relationship to the statement regarding AddRan College's allocation, which would no longer be necessary.

Considerable discussion focused on proportional representation and the role of at-large positions. In the past, the Senate has had difficulty filling Senate seats and getting enough individuals from certain units to serve on the Senate. Chair Ferrandino explained that at times the election committee (which is the Executive Committee) is compelled to have at-large elections to fill out Senate seats. The FG Committee felt that, with a fixed number of Senators, we could still balance the representation without being forced to have at-large elections. A question arose about how the number 43 was arrived at. Senator Garnett explained that we have full representation in the Senate right now, but the current number of Senators is 48. Discussion continued on the pros and cons of having a fixed number of Senators and having proportionate representation. This discussion revealed that Senators supported motions 2 and 3.

With the committee's consent, Chair Ferrandino withdrew the first motion, then asked for a straw poll to ask the committee to take into consideration today's discussion and return with by-law language. This straw poll was not taken. Instead, Chair Ferrandino took a poll to determine how many Senators preferred to have a fixed number of Senators and how many prefer to have proportionate representation. The sense was that the Senate preferred to have proportionate representation. The committee will take this discussion under consideration and bring their motions back in the future.

2. Motion from Committee on Committees:

Chair Ferrandino read the first motion: Change the name of the "Safeguard in Human Research Committee" to "Institutional Review Board for Human Research." This motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ferrandino next presented the committee's second motion to change the name and charge of the Instructional Development Committee. Catherine Wehlburg explained why she and the COC thought this was an improvement to the existing charge. Currently, there are three separate bodies with no connections; this change would create a single body. In response to a question, she said that this does not mean that grants for Instructional Development will be under the jurisdiction of the Center for Teaching Excellence. A question arose concerning whether there were any instructional strategies other than "technology" that would be considered by this committee. Ms. Wehlburg confirmed that the Instructional Development Committee is not limited to technology. Discussion clarified the meaning of the title "Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Technology." The word

“technology” at the end of the title does not apply to all the preceding elements. The committee will be concerned with instructional technology and teaching and learning, as separate elements.

Discussion next centered on what would be included in the report to the Faculty Senate mentioned at the end of the charge. The COC added this in order to give the Instructional Development Committee some accountability and to assure that the Senate would get some information on the Committee’s actions. Finally, Ms. Wehlburg stated that the budget line items of the various units would stay where they are; this is an attempt to bring all these entities together.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Ferrandino next announced that the Joint Assembly (of the Faculty Senate, the Staff Assembly, and the Student House) would take place on April 12, from 3:30 to 5:00, in room 104 of the Smith Building. The subject to be discussed will be the new student union. He also announced that the Faculty Assembly, originally scheduled for April 11, would be rolled into the Joint Assembly meeting.

He also explained that, since time was getting short, the update on the TCU Core Curriculum would be brief. He informed the Senate that the Core changes continue to make excellent progress.

3. Senate Executive Committee elections:

Chair Ferrandino announced to the Senate that Chair-elect Mags Rittby has been named the new Associate Dean of Science and Engineering. He congratulated Senator Rittby, as did the Senators. As a result of this new assignment, Senator Rittby will be unable to take over as Chair of the Senate next year. Chair Ferrandino explained that the COC and the Executive Committee have been working to identify individuals who could take Senator Rittby’s current position as Chair-elect, effective immediately. This would allow the new Chair-elect some time to work with the Executive Committee before having to take over duties as Chair. Chair Ferrandino added that, according to Senate By-laws, we would have to send out a mail ballot for an endorsement of the person that the Executive Committee eventually identifies for this position. Then, we will run normal elections for the new Executive Committee. At the moment we are still searching for someone to take the “instant chair-elect” position.

Chair Ferrandino adjourned the Senate meeting at 5:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Fairchild