

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
April 5, 2001

Members present: Chuck Becker, Joe Bobich, Ronald Burns, Art Busbey, Carolyn Cagle, Ernie Couch, Nowell Donovan, Lynn Flahive, Andy Fort, Sally Fortenberry, Gregg Franzwa, Ellen Garrison, David Grant, Phil Hadlock, Sanoa Hensley, Jennifer Higa, Paul King, Ed Kolesar, George Low, Linda Moore, Marla Murphy, Roger Pfaffenberger, Mike Sacken, Gene Smith, Greg Stephens, Peggy Watson, Ron Watson.

Members absent: Ron Flowers, Mike Butler, Dick Rinewalt, Magnus Rittby, Pat Kinkade, Carol Stephenson, Melissa Young, George Brown, Rob Garnett, Sheila Allen, Thad Duhigg, Derek Kompare, Joan McGettigan, Angeline Powell, Nancy Meadows, Elizabeth Taylor.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nowell Donovan at 3:41 p.m.

At the request of the Chair, Senator Ron Watson moved to change the agenda to allow the presentation by VC Ed Bivin and Mr. Will Stalworth to be given first. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The University intends to upgrade 85 classrooms this summer; Bivin and Stalworth provided some statistics on classroom use in peer universities and what TCU is doing.

Senator Becker asked if there were any problems with cost overruns because of all the projects. VC Bivin noted that Mr. Stalworth makes it possible to keep in touch with all the ongoing projects. Mr. Stalworth was at the Air Force Academy and headed the physical plant there. TCU is currently hiring a major projects director who will report to Will.

Senator Bobich inquired about science lab updating and VC Bivin noted that general classrooms were first on the renovation list.

Senator Couch expressed thanks for the support for improving the technology in Sid Richardson, however, he said he can't use the blackboards in LH 2 and 4 because of the placement of the multimedia podium. It was suggested that he consult with Larry Kitchens.

Old Business:

Our nominees for Honorary Degrees have been accepted by the Trustees. The degrees will be awarded this summer rather than waiting a year so as to make the process more speedy.

The floor was opened for discussion of the Grievance Committee Report. Senator Kolesar noted that he received no email inquires about the report. A lively discussion ensued, the gist of which was that the senate felt some slight clarification of the wording was needed in order to protect the prerogative of the faculty in the tenure process. Senator Kolesar was charged with making the changes.

Senator Bobich made the motion to table the report until the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Fort and unanimously passed by the senate.

New Business:

Senator Franzwa suggested that the Faculty Senate should have discussion on the merit of having a faculty member on the Board of Trustees. He said that the new trustees were “all mostly CEOs” and was wondering how many board members have any academic background or educational experience. He asked how perspective board members were identified. He informally proposed that a faculty member be appointed to the to the board.

Senator Fort asked if the Chair could run this by senior administrators. Senator Bobich noted that SMU has a faculty member on the board. Senator Sacken said he could understand why employees were not on the board. He suggested having about a non-TCU academic on the board. Senator Moore said that this suggested appear in last year’s governance committee report and suggested we should look at the report. Senator Franzwa suggested we appoint an emeritus TCU faculty member.

Senator Fort made a motion to have the executive committee discuss this with the Provost and Chancellor. Senator Flahive seconded the motion and it was passed by the senate.

Chair Donovan provided a brief summary of the meeting with the Board Academic Advisory Committee.

Senator Kolesar asked what about the qualifications for board members. Provost Koehler said that the board makes the decisions itself and that he does not know what criteria they use. Senator Franzwa asked if any current board member has an academic background and Provost Koehler said he did not know.

Senator Fort suggested that we identify those who wish to be officers of group before the last meeting. He said we should announce the candidates a week before the last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur B. Busbey
Secretary