

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
April 7, 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, Elizabeth Gilaspy,* George Gilbert, David Grant, Charles Hannon, Jack Hill,* Jack Jones, Paul King, Nadia Lahutsky, Steve Levering, Suzy Lockwood, John Lovett, Ed McNertney, Linda Moore, Robert Neilson, Don Nichols, C.A. Quarles, Ranga Ramasesh, Dick Rinewalt,* Magnus Rittby, Bill Ryan, Ranae Stetson, T.J. Walsh, Peggy Watson,* Dan Williams, Melissa Young, Stu Youngblood.

*excused

Senators absent: David Cross, Thomas Guderjan, Joel Mitchell, Ellen Page Shelton, Gene Smith, Carol Thompson, Molly Weinburgh, Keith Whitworth

Guests: Jessica Chandler, *Skiff* reporter, and Chancellor Boschini

Chair Blaise Ferrandino called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the March 3 Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

Old Business

1. New Chair-elect of Senate

Chair Ferrandino announced that Senator Andy Fort was elected to the position of Chair-elect. He will replace Senator Mags Rittby who resigned from the position due to his appointment as Associate Dean in the College of Science and Engineering.

2. Joint Assembly announcement

Senator Suzy Lockwood announced that the Joint Assembly of the Senate, the Staff Assembly, and Student Government would take place on Tuesday, April 12 at 3:30 in the Smith Entrepreneur Hall, Room 104 A and B. The topic of discussion will be the envisioning of the new student union. Senator Arnie Barkman asked why the new student center was being referred to as a “Union” instead of a “Student Center.” Senator Lockwood answered that this may be one of the issues that will be discussed at the Assembly.

3. Conflict Resolution Policy

Chair Ferrandino called on Senator Stu Youngblood to give an update on the Task Force's work on the Conflict Resolution Policy. Senator Youngblood stated that he and Greg Stephens (Chair of the Committee of Mediators) would be meeting with the Deans individually very soon. He also explained that the Conflict Resolution Policy has been placed on the agenda of the Provost's Council coming up next week. He added that Jill Laster would accompany him and Greg Stephens to the meetings with the Deans. It was felt that her contributions would help support the policy. He predicted that the Provost Council would see the wisdom of the policy and that some version of it would be approved.

Senator Nadia Lahutsky asked what the Deans' objections to the policy might be since it has been shown that mediation has so many advantages. Senator Youngblood felt that there is a lack of understanding of where mediation would be used; he also believes that people think mediation is arbitration. In fact, mediation nips problems in the bud, thus avoiding the need for arbitration. The Deans' questions may have to do with concerns about control, that is, with this policy they fear losing control over certain circumstances. This is the purpose of the personal meetings with individual Deans. The committee's aim is to educate Deans before the Provost Council meeting. Senator Youngblood added that the Task Force is still working on the tenure and promotion grievance policy.

Chair Ferrandino thanked Senator Youngblood and other Task Force members for their work on the Conflict Resolution Policy. He pointed out that confusion still exists because the policy has not yet been approved; he outlined the approval process. In reference to the Task Force's charge to work on the tenure and promotion grievance policy, he confirmed the need for active participation on the part of the Deans in revising this document. Since the TPG committee's work on the tenure and promotion grievance policy portion of their charge will not be finished this year, Chair Ferrandino assured the Senate that this work will not be abandoned, it will be continued next year. Senator Youngblood stated that there is general agreement that the tenure and promotion grievance policy needs to be revised.

4. Chair Ferrandino next asked Chancellor Boschini to address the question raised earlier about the naming of the new student center. Chancellor Boschini confirmed that he has a preference for the term "union" instead of "student center" because the term "union" is more inclusive of the whole university community. He envisions the new building to be a facility for use by all entities within the university and not a center for students only.

In answer to a question about how students would feel about that, Chancellor Boschini stated that he didn't believe anyone would feel left out or excluded. The facility will be so impressive that everyone will be very pleased with it and no one will be disenfranchised. The concept of union will be a topic at the Joint Assembly coming up next week.

3. TCU Core Curriculum report

Senator Ed McNertney took the floor to give a summary of the progress made this year on the TCU Core Curriculum. He thanked the members of the Core Implementation Committee for their work on this project: Melissa Canady, Blaise Ferrandino, Suzy Lockwood, Chris Sawyer, Catherine Wehlburg, David Whillock and Dan Williams.

Senator McNertney began his presentation with the question “Will we be ready for the incoming class?” He feels that the answer to this question is “yes,” and he presented the following list of accomplishments made thus far:

1. Currently, there are 105 different courses approved for the new Core, some of which fall into more than one category. The numbers of courses available for each Core category are: HMVV 132, Human Experiences 142, and Essential Competencies 28.

2. The Core Emendation Policy has been approved by the Faculty Senate (there is now a mechanism by which we can make changes, if necessary).

3. Several campus entities and offices outside the Senate have become involved in the project. A group has been put together by Vice Chancellor Leo Munson to deal with the matter of the continuation of the old UCR and the implementation of the new TCU Core. This group includes Associate Deans, the Registrar, Admissions, the Center for Teaching Excellence, and the Center for Academic Services. The group met monthly to identify issues and discuss the various implications of the change in order to make plans to deal with such issues.

In addition, the Registrar’s office has been deeply involved. Registrar personnel developed a new search engine, a new advising toolkit, and developed TCU Core Curriculum lists of approved courses.

The Center for Academic Services has also been actively planning for the new Core. Advising newsletters have been issued, advising workshops have been set up, and an advising plan for summer orientations has been made. The Center for Academic Services has also been preparing to make presentations about the TCU CC at orientations. They have allocated an extra half hour to address academic matters during orientation sessions.

The offices of Marketing and Communications and Admissions are developing educational (promotional) materials about the new Core.

The Core Implementation Committee has been traveling around campus to answer questions. They continue to be available to all units in the university to talk about the Core.

Finally, Senator McNertney stated that TCU CC catalog copy has been written and a Core Curriculum Website has been developed.

As a result of all these activities, Senator McNertney confirmed that the university would be ready for the initiation of the new Core in the fall semester. He stated that, nevertheless, they need faculty to continue to submit courses for approval and he encouraged Senators to attend the new TCU Core Curriculum Advising Workshops. The first one is taking place a week from this meeting (Thursday, April 14). Senators should contact Marsha Ramsey (at m.ramsey@tcu.edu or extension 7486) if they wish to sign up. An announcement of these workshops will soon be sent out to all faculty. Faculty can also get the dates of the workshops on the Core website.

Senator McNertney fielded questions from the Senate. Senator Carolyn Cagle asked if there would be a paper version of the catalog, expressing her hope that this would be considered with the new Core. Senator McNertney said he would support the idea, however, in the

past, this was proposed but not implemented. Senators expressed a desire to have a printed copy of the catalog. Senator Ferrandino said he would ask the new Executive Committee to charge the Academic Excellence Committee to look into this next year. He felt that the appropriate approach might be to consider it as an academic issue.

Discussion continued on the subject of encouraging all faculty to attend workshops in order to become more familiar with the new Core. Chair Ferrandino suggested that Department Chairs be asked to attend the CIC presentation. He further suggested that colleges and other units book a visit from the CIC. In closing the discussion, Chair Ferrandino gave recognition to the large number of people and campus entities that have been involved, a lot of work, but a heartening process.

New Business

1. Motion to endorse the continuation of the Core Implementation Committee and its charge.

Chair Ferrandino presented the motion (previously distributed to all Senators) to endorse the continuation of the CIC and called for discussion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. In answer to a question about whether there would be any changes of the members of the committee, the Chair pointed out that Senator Suzy Lockwood and Associate Dean David Whillock have agreed to serve on the committee.

The second motion to approve the six charges was placed on the floor for discussion. Chair Ferrandino reviewed each charge. He explained that the final one looks to the future and deals with how to set up the assessment procedures. He explained that the assessment cycle begins in 2007.

Senator Lahutsky asked whether the third charge would include questions about transfer students. Senator McNertney answered affirmatively; he explained that the Admissions office defines whether or not a student is a transfer student (this is not always clear, notably in the case of incoming freshmen who have a large number of advance placement credits). The Admissions office and the Registrar will resolve such issues. The motion to approve the charges passed unanimously.

2. Presentation of the slate of the new Faculty Senate Executive Committee:

The following slate for next year's Senate Executive Committee was presented: Chair-elect, Suzy Lockwood; Secretary, John Lovett; Assistant Secretary, Elizabeth Gilaspy.

Chair Ferrandino stated that if anyone else wishes to run for these offices, they should contact the Committee on Committees as soon as possible. The slate will be voted on at the last meeting Senate meeting, per the Senate By-laws.

Senator Fort pointed out that, in the past, there has been a "theme" running through the various committee charges. He asked Senators to consider this tradition and to let anyone on the Executive Committee know if they have any ideas for such a theme for the forthcoming year. He also requested Senators' opinions on whether this is a good or bad practice. It was suggested that the subject of service might be a theme to consider for the forthcoming year.

3. Motions from the Faculty Governance Committee

Chair Ferrandino gave the floor to Senator Cagle to discuss the motions of the Faculty Governance Committee concerning changes in the Senate By-laws (previously distributed). She began by thanking the committee members for their work. She explained that the committee plans to bring the motions concerning the size of the Senate (discussed at the last Senate meeting) to the next meeting. She then invoked the committee's charge to edit the Senate By-laws in order to bring them up to date concerning various committees and the resulting re-ordering of the By-laws. Senator Lahutsky took the floor to explain the format of the proposed changes. She reviewed the parts that are new and those that are the same, but numbered differently.

After discussion took place on the items in Section 5 of the By-laws, the following corrected versions were approved (corrections in bold):

Item D. The Executive Committee shall serve as a screening **committee** in forwarding names of nominees for honorary degrees to the full Senate prior to their going to **the Chancellor** and the Board of Trustees (see Constitution Art. II, § 1.C).

Item G: The Executive Committee and the Senate Chair shall **annually** communicate in writing, to the Department Chairs and Deans of all Senators, their gratitude for the time and commitment of each Senator and in recognition of the support provided by those administrative levels without which the Senate could not conduct its work.

Chair Ferrandino asked the Senate for permission to vote on Section 5 only. The changes were approved unanimously. Chair Ferrandino's motion to place Section 6 on the floor passed unanimously.

After considerable discussion on the wording in this Section, the following changes were proposed (changes in bold):

Item A: The Academic Excellence Committee shall monitor and review the academic policies **and practices** of the University.

Item B: The Committee on Committees shall nominate to the proper appointing parties faculty members to serve on University Committees as well as **on** ad hoc committees, task forces, etc., established by the Senate, Student House, or Administration.

Item D: **The** Student Relations Committee shall represent the Senate in matters relating to student concerns."

Item E: Discussion of this item concerned the power of the TPG Committee to monitor the effectiveness of university tenure, promotion and grievance policies. Senator Lahutsky pointed out that the TPG task force would be working on these issues, which may result in major changes. Further discussion resulted in the following revision:

Item E: The Tenure, Promotion and Grievance Committee shall monitor the effectiveness of University policies on **tenure, promotion, and grievance** found in the *Handbook for Faculty and Staff*.

The changes in Section 6 were approved.

Next, a motion to approve the changes in Section 7 was placed on the floor for discussion. Senator Cagle pointed out that this is a new section that deals with various new committees and Senate responsibilities that have developed in the last couple of years. She reviewed each item. A lengthy discussion occurred concerning the wording in Item C: “The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall have the discretionary power to appoint Senate Representatives to groups on campus and beyond not covered by the Committee on Committees charge, for example, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics.”

Since Senators expressed a number of concerns about items in this section and no resolution was forthcoming, Chair Ferrandino withdrew the motion to approve section 7. He asked the FG Committee to rework this section and to bring it back to the Senate. He thanked the committee members for their work on this charge.

Announcements

1. Senator Rob Garnett announced that there would be a reception following the last meeting of the Senate (May 5). We have received approval for food and drinks; he encouraged all Senators to plan to attend the reception.

2. Senator Linda Moore reminded Senators to contribute to the TCU Annual Fund. She distributed Annual Fund lapel pins to the Senators. Since the wearing of this pin indicates that one has contributed, she expressed the hope that Senators would follow through with their donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 5PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Fairchild