

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
May 5,2001

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nowell Donovan at 3:33 PM.

Old Business

The minutes from the May Faculty Senate meeting were accepted.

Senator D. Grant moved, and Senator P. Watson seconded, a motion to remove the grievance policy proposal, from the Tenure, Promotion and Grievance Committee (TP&G), that we tabled in April and open it for discussion.

New Business

Senator Kolesar, Chair of the TP&G, presented the recommendations for modifications to the document.

Senator J. Bobich moved to approve and Senator R. Pfaffenberger seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Donovan discussed the increasing contact with the board rather than having a formal representation on the board. We now have Academic Affairs Board that the executive committee can communicate with about issues of concern to the faculty.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary positions were unopposed, so Art Busbey (Secretary) and Peggy Watson (Asst. Secretary) will continue in their current positions. Nominees for Chair are Senators George Brown and Joe Bobich. Senators Bobich and Brown gave short presentations to the senate. Ballots were distributed and then collected.

Chair Donovan said that the Senate should initiate a discussion with the administration on the end of year Faculty Senate reports. He noted that many reports are formulated as though they are being submitted to the deans. A Dean's Forum for faculty on the dean's response to the reports and the dean's goals for the coming year will be held in the fall 2001 semester.

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Chair L. Flahive made 2 motions

1. **Moved that an *ad hoc* committee be formed over the summer to report to Senate in the fall to consider combining quasi-judicial committees. This motion was approved unanimously.**
2. **Moved to reduce memberships as recommended in the report. This motion was approved unanimously.**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

The report was presented by Senator G. Brown. The AEC made a number of recommendations for which no actions were required.

Senator J. Bobich noted that TCU recently did away with the Graduate Dean. Senator G. Brown said this was based on recommendations of the Commission on the Future of TCU. Senator P. King said that having a dean for years did not help with graduate stipends; change occurred because it was felt that budget lines within departments would have more *gravitas*. However, budgets remained static.

Senator C. Becker asked if the committee investigated financial ramifications of a large increase in graduate school initiatives and Senator G. Brown said they did not. Senator A. Fort said potential costs were too high. Senator Couch said there would be increases of 8% up to 20% that would be spread around between the graduate departments.

The report was accepted.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator M. Butler presented the SAC recommendation that the GPA to maintain a scholarship be maintained at 3.0 rather than increasing once a student completed their freshman year.

It was suggested that this should be effective starting Fall 2002.

Senator Bobich moved that we accept the recommendation and the motion was seconded by Senator Flahive. The motion was passed unanimously.

FACULTY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Senator D. Kompare presented the report. The report notes that the SPOT (Student Perception of Teaching) evaluations fail to be used responsibly. It notes that evaluation procedures are inconsistent and the evaluations fail to measure teaching outcomes. The Committee sees the SPOT as a minimal component in assessing teaching quality. The FGC recommends that we 'reconceptualize' the teacher-scholar model.

Senator A. Fort said he is in favor of a reward structure for faculty but wonders who will support faculty cash awards. He wondered who will push this move and where support and money will come from.

Senator J. Bobich noted that some improvements can be made with no money. Deans could review the backs of SPOT forms. Chairs could be required to indicate that, in some way, they are aware of the form by quoting student comments and this will go forward to the Dean so that Dean knows the Chair reviewed the back of the SPOT form.

Senator M. Young said that not all comments are seen by everyone and Senator P. King noted that evaluations are administered unevenly. He suggested that an external evaluation could be done.

The report was accepted.

TENURE, PROMOTION AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The TPGC suggests that the TCU vita needs to include more information on teaching. The Committee moved that a revised vita be passed on to the administration for consideration and adoption. Details are present in the report.

Senator L. Moore asked if there was a time limit and suggested 5 to 10 years for reporting teaching data. Senator Fort does not like the suggested focus on the amount of time spent in- or outside of a particular class.

Senator C. Becker made a motion to postpone discussion to a Fall 2001 meeting. Senator D. Rinewalt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chair N. Donovan noted that Senator P. King is the new parliamentarian.

Senator George Brown won the election and is the next Chair-elect.

In a ceremony reminiscent of northern Italian early Renaissance pageantry (but without the greased pigs or *castrate*), the Chair's gavel was passed from Chair R. Nowell Donovan to Chair-Elect Carolyn Spence Cagle. Amid tumultuous expostulation Past-Chair Donovan was presented a plaque commemorating his service over the last academic year. Chair Cagle, shouldering the embroidered mantle of command, made a few remarks and set the stage for the next academic year.

The last faculty senate meeting of the 2000-2001 academic year passed into history at 5:12 PM.