

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
3 October 2002

Members present: Arthur Busbey, Carolyn Spence-Cagle, Sharon Fairchild, Ron Flowers, Andy Fort, Sally Fortenberry, Pam Frable, George Gilbert, Tom Guderjan, Sanoa Hensley, Jack Jones, Paul King, Derek Kompare, Nadia Lahutsky, Suzy Lockwood, Joan McGettigan, Don Nichols, Ranga Ramasesh, Dick Rinewalt, Bill Ryan, Mike Sacken, Ellen Page Shelton, Gene Smith, Carol Thompson, Jeffrey Todd, Peggy Watson, Ralph Woodward, Melissa Young.

Members excused: Lynn Flahive, Phil Hadlock, Magnus Rittby.

Members absent: Melissa Burns, David Cross, Blaise Ferrandino, Rob Garnett, Elizabeth Taylor, Bill Vanderhoof.

The Chair convened the meeting at 3:36pm.

Chair Watson briefly discussed the problem of recruiting new senators. The Faculty Senate Handbook says any vacancies are to be filled by the Election Committee and FSEC is the Election Committee. Therefore, the FSEC introduced three 3 new senator candidates. Senator Fort introduced the new senators: Bill Ryan, Tom Guderjan and Carol Thompson. He noted that there are still two openings in Science and Engineering, three in Fine Arts, one in Education and one in business. Senators from these areas were encouraged to talk to potential candidates.

Senator Lahutsky moved that we thank the new senators. The motion was seconded by Senator Fortenburry. The motion passed unanimously.

The September minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

Chair Watson introduced Dr. Nowell Donovan, ex-Senate Chair and notorious bon vivant. He presented a short presentation (including handout) on the Core Curriculum Committee (CCC). He read the final CCC charges and mentioned the formation of a listserv (cccinfo@geocx.geo.tcu.edu) for faculty input. The CCC meets at 5pm on Mondays and remains in session for as long as there is business. He also outlined a draft of the initial discussion with a three-component overlay.

Senator Cagle asked if the CCC had discussed the scheduling of a faculty forum. Donovan carefully explained that at this point in time there was nothing of enough substance to warrant a forum. Senator Cagle then asked if there was any idea when a faculty forum would occur. Donovan again noted that, without clarity of issues and a proposal, that it was premature to make a presentation to the faculty.

Following this discussion the Chair noted that Ms. Peggy Gordon, Chair of Academic Affairs Committee of the SGA, was working on honor code ideas.

New Business

Report from the Dean of Admissions

Chair Watson introduced the Dean of Admissions, Ray Brown who distributed an information sheet. He said that four main issues occurred this year. Positive issues include the largest application pool in TCU history (5% above the previous 15% record), Admit rate is like a golf score - lower is better. The mix of students is improving with more students of color than before. Dean Brown then opened the discussion for questions from the floor.

Senator Flowers asked about our definition of a student of color. Dean Brown said this includes Blacks, Hispanics and Indian or Asian Americans but does not include international students or students who have not identified themselves. Senator Flowers asked why international students were not included and Dean Brown said that generally reporting agencies only use this term in relation to American students.

Senator Todd asked how biracial students identified themselves. The Dean did not know, but said that such students who identified themselves as a minority might have more incentives. Only 39 students did not identify their race this year.

Senator Nichols said that the percentage of students who were admitted and enrolled has declined and asked if this was a matter of concern. Dean Brown said the decline is a matter of concern and noted that more electronic applications are submitted to universities and also to universities students do not intend to attend.

Senator Hensley asked about retention and the Dean said it was at 81% or so. Senator Flowers if this was normal for our type of school. Dean Brown says we are right on the average based on national measures but we are still working to improve the retention rate. Senator Nichols asked if there was data on the quality of students that choose to remain. The Dean said we do not have that data, but that national norms suggest that good students stay. Provost Koehler that better students are more likely to stay but that this is variable. He said that GPA and loss of financial aid have a negative impact. Dean Brown said that in general the retention rate is highest with white woman from Texas. Senator Kompare asked where failed admits to TCU go and the Dean said we have information on this and it has been constant for a long time. Out of area state schools are our biggest competitors.

Senator McKettigan asked about efforts to recruit from out of state. We recruit in 35 states and 30 countries. After 9/11 our international student count is down 25% (12 students, from 45 to 33 students). We are renewing our efforts to recruit in Chicago and Wisconsin.

Additional issues of focus or concern include:

- Applications are up five percent but down from men.
- Applications from Hispanics increased 50% but the total number of enrolled Hispanic students declined.
- Enrollment of black students increased from 66 last year to 89 this year.
- Effects of electronic applications
- Focus on bringing in National Merit and National Achievement scholars to TCU

Senator Hensley asked if TCU would meet tuition revenue projections with lowered enrollment. The Dean said the CFO would know that. The Chancellor said budgets will be down from projections but the budgets were still being analyzed.

Lastly, Dean Brown noted that transfer students enrollments were down. Transfer students didn't use electronic forms as much as freshmen did. Also, twenty percent of the transfer students filing electronically didn't complete the forms and yet the form they fill out is easier than the freshman form (where only five percent don't finish).

Report from the Director of International Student Services

Mr. John Singleton introduced himself and handed out a document on international student enrollment, noting interesting trends in relation to immigration and students.

About five percent of TCU students are international. His office not only works with students while they are at TCU but also helps after they graduate. As with other schools in Texas, TCU is a major educator of international students. Many students come and stay here because of historical connections. He noted that the TCU mission statement also gives his office a clear charge.

When carrying out presentations for international students information is usually set up to recruit parents, not the student, "If you can't sell to parents, students won't come." There is also a special orientation for the parents of matriculating foreign students. Parents tend to stay through the whole orientation. Orientation serves as a recruiting tool and also helps the parents to meet each other.

We recruit more students from Japan than any other country and our population of Indian students is growing. There are more Columbian students here than any school in Texas, partially on the strength of our Columbian faculty. Faculty from foreign areas really help recruit students from those areas.

Most international students are well-educated, wealthy, privileged and usually at least trilingual. They don't see themselves as minorities because they are from the privileged class in own countries, though they do see themselves as different. TCU wants them to have a comfortable experience in the US.

Senator Gilbert asked if there were many Humanities majors. Single noted that there were not many, because they usually have goals and a job lined up and it is hard to convince them to come here pay for an education in the Humanities.

Chancellor Ferrari asked about the possible impact because of new Federal regulations.

Singleton said that the government is set to issue new laws but there is some confusion and potential rules are difficult to understand. Because of this our program may be affected but we can't tell how much. The government says that educational institutions need to start to monitor many aspects of international students, including class attendance. They are developing a data base system for the January 30 start of these laws and the implications for international students are severe. For example, they will no longer let infractions slip: if a student drops below 12 hours because of dropping a class they will be deported. We need to make sure international students understand that TCU is not the government and that we don't make the rules. New regulations will also have an affect on hiring intentional student as graduate teaching assistants.

In closing Senator Flowers asked if we knew the religion affiliation of international students and the Director said we do not because we do not ask and do not collect that information

Other

VC Don Mills gave a short presentation on United Way giving at TCU. He made the point that United Way only takes twelve percent, or so, of the money for local administration.

Chair Watson announced there would be a joint assembly, on October29, of the Faculty Senate, the Staff Assembly and the Student Government Association. The program will be a discussion about mentoring

Lastly she noted that the November meeting will be held the second Thursday rather than the first.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Busbey, Secretary