

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 2004

Senators present: Joan Aker, Arnie Barkman, Donelle Barnes, David Bedford, Bonnie Blackwell, Joseph Butler, Carolyn Cagle,* Dennis Cheek, David Cross, Alan Dettlaff, Sharon Fairchild, Blaise Ferrandino, Andy Fort, Sally Fortenberry,* Rob Garnett, George Gilbert, Elisabeth Gillaspay, 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, Don Nichols, Robert Nielson, C.A. Quarles, Ranga Ramasesh, Dick Rinewalt, Magnus Rittby,* Bill Ryan, Ellen Page Shelton, Gene Smith, Ranae Stetson,* Carol Thompson,* T.J. Walsh, Peggy Watson, Molly Weinberg, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Stu Youngblood, Melissa Young.
*excused

Senators absent: Tom Guderjan, David Cross, Joel Mitchell

Guests: Provost Nowell Donovan, Catherine Wehlburg, Bob Maninger (sitting in for Ranae Stetson), Janelle Stecklein (*Skiff* reporter), Melissa Canady, Don Mills, Jay Zeidman

Chair Ferrandino called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the September 30 Senate meeting were approved with no corrections or additions.

Old Business

1. Honorary degree nomination information

Deadline: Chair Ferrandino asked Senators to submit nominations for honorary degrees to the Executive Committee by November 15, if possible. Although the official deadline isn't until January, nominations have a better chance of being sent forward in a timely manner if they are submitted to the Executive Committee by November 15.

In response to an issue brought up at the last Senate meeting concerning who would receive information requesting nominations, Chair Ferrandino noted that a letter soliciting nominations for honorary degrees would be sent to TCU faculty next week.

2. Distribution of Senate meeting documents.

Chair Ferrandino asked Senators for feedback concerning the manner in which Senate materials are distributed prior to regular Senate meetings. For the current meeting, all documents were distributed to Senators in hard copy, and all TCU faculty received them electronically. Senator Ferrandino stated that the Secretary would continue to send hard

copies of essential materials to Senators. If there is additional background material that is not essential to the business of the meeting, Senators will be referred to the Senate Web page to read and/or download those materials as they wish. Senator Fairchild pointed out that sending hard copies to Senators does not constitute any difficulty or undue expense. The Executive Committee's intent in trying electronic distribution was to make access to the materials quick and easy by having them posted on the Senate Web page. Discussion continued with certain Senators expressing their preference to receive hard copies, others said it was fine to receive electronic versions only. The consensus was that Senators would prefer to receive the hard copies of the agenda and minutes along with important materials such as motions and committee reports. A number of Senators stated that they had not received hard copies this semester. Senator Fairchild requested those Senators to notify her if they had not received the mailing.

New Business

1. Tenure, promotion, grievance policy revisions history.

Chair Ferrandino explained the background on Senate revisions to the faculty tenure grievance policy. In 2002, the TPG committee decided to separate the Conflict Resolution policy from the faculty tenure and promotion grievance policy. The Senate passed a revision of the tenure and promotion grievance policy in May 2002, and forwarded it to the Provost. This policy was rejected at the Dean's Council. The Senate passed a new version in February 2003.

This year, the Executive Committee investigated what had become of this policy and asked the Provost to accept the Senate document (of February 2003) as a "working" document. He agreed to set up a task force to work on this document, taking the concerns of the Deans into consideration. The members of the task force will be a combination of Deans, Assistant Deans, and Senators Stu Youngblood and Nadia Lahutsky. Senator Youngblood will head the task force. After they work out the issues that need to be clarified, any substantive changes will be brought back to the Senate for approval. The deadline for the task force to complete its work is February 1. Senators Youngblood and Lahutsky will represent the Senate's interest in the policy.

Chair Ferrandino further explained that the Senate approved the Conflict Resolution Policy for faculty in December, 2003. The Provost supports this policy; it should move forward for approval quickly. Senator Paul King explained the history of why there needed to be a policy for faculty, who previously had no access to conflict resolution. He outlined how the past TPG committee had made its revisions. Senator Youngblood also explained the process by which the staff Conflict Resolution Policy was passed by the Staff Assembly and then by the Cabinet. As for the Conflict Resolution Policy for faculty, officials are working out the operational details and it will soon go forward to be approved by the Cabinet. Provost Donovan confirmed that the Conflict Resolution Policy is going forward; he also emphasized the need to revise the tenure and promotion grievance policy.

2. Graduate VIA initiative – report from Senators on the committee.

Senator Dan Williams took the floor to describe the work of this committee. Other Senators on this committee are: Melissa Young, Joe Butler, and Molly Weinberg. After having spent a lot of time on the initiative and doing a large amount of work, the committee intends to present its report to the Provost by next Monday (November 1). Senator

Williams pointed out that he had also served on the VIA Academic Directions committee. A substantial portion of the report written by that committee did not appear in the synthesis done by the consultants, Kaludis. He was, therefore, pleased to be asked to work on this committee. He next explained the charge that the committee was given (see addendum to these minutes).

Senator Williams pointed out that, due to time constraints, the committee was not able to be very comprehensive on a number of issues. Some of their answers to the questions simply suggest that further information is needed. The committee worked under two assumptions, stemming from the Chancellor's vision for the university. First, he aims to keep TCU's Carnegie I classification and second, he envisions doubling graduate enrollment in the next ten years. Senator Williams outlined the committee's forthcoming recommendations:

1. Graduate education needs to be more central to the university's mission, requiring an important climate change and a shift in the perception of its role in the university.
2. Additional funds and resources will be needed.
3. The committee will recommend that existing programs *not* be closed to allow for funding of new programs.
4. The university infrastructure will need to be improved and faculty incentives need to be implemented.
5. The committee will recommend an integration of graduate and undergraduate programs. In addition, there should be a balance between professional programs and academic ones. The committee does not consider professional graduate programs to be the answer to increasing graduate studies overall. There should be an appropriate balance.
6. Finally, the question of faculty work loads should also be evaluated.

Further discussion followed concerning the meaning and value of the Carnegie classifications. In response to a question regarding the term "climate change," Senator Williams answered that encouragement of undergraduate research and the promotion of the teacher/scholar model were the types of things they had in mind. He also confirmed that the committee felt that there would need to be a demonstrated demand for a particular program before it could be added. He also pointed out that all our peer universities tend to have a greater number of graduate programs than TCU. Provost Donovan thanked the committee for its work and assured the members that the report will be posted and feedback will be solicited.

3. Report on Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FESSE) from Melissa Canady, Director of Assessment.

Professor Canady explained that this will be the first of three presentations that she will make to the Senate about the 2004 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FESSE). This new survey represents a collaborative endeavor between the NESSE and the FESSE. Because the survey results have such a large amount of information, Professor Canady presented only the results pertaining to how faculty spend their work-related time. She distributed copies of the survey and announced that the graphs of the results will be posted on the CTE Web page. After reviewing the survey, Professor Canady suggested that there are several ways these results may be used. They may inform campus decision-making, be used to initiate discussions related to teaching, and help identify strengths and weaknesses of the undergraduate experience. She then answered questions.

Chair Ferrandino thanked Professor Canady and announced that he will ask Senator Rittby to provide a link to this information on the Senate web page. He then made the following announcements:

1. The Faculty Assembly will take place on Tuesday, November 9, from 3:30 to 5:00 in Moudy 141N. The Assembly will be a panel discussion on the implementation of the new Core. Staff and other “stake-holders” will also be invited to attend.
2. He announced the address of the new Core curriculum web page: www.core.tcu.edu
3. He reminded Senators to vote on Tuesday, November 2.

Provost Donovan took the floor briefly to announce that the Board of Trustees would be on campus next week. The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board will hear a presentation from Senator McNertney about the new Core, Senator Ferrandino will also address the Committee, and the Provost will report on the progress of the Vision in Action initiative.

4. Student Relations Committee discussion

Chair Ferrandino explained that this would be a discussion to get feedback from Senators, no motions are on the table at this time. Senator Suzy Lockwood, Chair of the Student Relations Committee, explained that Student Government brought the idea of changing the academic calendar to the committee. The students had passed a resolution proposing additional holiday time at the Thanksgiving and Fall Breaks. They suggest beginning the Thanksgiving holiday on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and they wish to add another day to Fall Break. They pointed out that beginning the first week of classes on a Monday, instead of the usual Wednesday, would compensate for these days. Senator Lockwood outlined the students’ concerns that motivated the suggested changes. The principle concern was the safety of students traveling on the highways on Wednesday night before Thanksgiving.

Vice Chancellor Don Mills took the floor to explain the impact of moving the first day of classes. He had no objections to taking an additional day off before Thanksgiving, but moving the first day of classes back to Monday presents multiple problems. Due to summer school and orientation, there is not enough time to prepare residence halls and to hold orientation. In addition, he pointed out that the records show that a larger percentage of students who attend the last orientation do not stay at TCU. He fears that the proposed change would impact this situation, putting these students even more at risk. He suggested that the university look at the entire academic year and consider other alternatives. There is general agreement on a need to adjust vacation days, but a change at the beginning of the Fall semester is the most problematic.

Student Government President Jay Zeidman then took the floor to explain the students’ position. He emphasized that their plan minimizes the loss of class days. Students consider it important to discuss the calendar, especially regarding Thanksgiving. Discussion continued. It was pointed out that a one-day fall break is not typical in other universities.

Since the meeting had continued beyond the 5PM ending time, Chair Ferrandino adjourned the meeting in order to allow Senators needing to leave to do so.

Senator Lockwood invited Senators to send feedback, suggestions, and concerns about the holiday proposal to her. Discussion continued with remaining Senators. Senator Peggy Watson described how such a change would have a direct negative impact on academics, especially the advising of Honors students. She pointed out that, as it is now, the orientations at the end of the summer are much more difficult and hurried than earlier ones. The proposed change could exacerbate that situation.

The meeting ended at 5:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Fairchild

Addendum

VIA Graduate Studies Committee charge

The charge included the following strategic questions:

1. What types of graduate programs should TCU build? Traditional doctoral? Non-traditional doctoral with a graduate professional orientation? Traditional Master's? Professional graduate Master's or 1st professional programs? What is the recommended balance/mix across program types?
2. What specific guidelines should be considered when redefining/repositioning existing or establishing new graduate degree programs?
3. What role should new or refined interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary programs (especially ones crossing college/school boundaries) play in the program mix?
4. What is required for TCU to build more competitive strategies for programs, so that they can attract a sufficient student enrollment to be robust, have an adequate resource base, and meet desired quality standards?
5. What opportunities in the current local/regional market represent demand for graduate education that matches TCU's current strengths?
6. What internal issues must be faced and resolved for TCU to be successful in implementing this graduate vision?