

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
2 November, 2000

Members present: Chuck Becker, Art Busbey, Carolyn Cagle, Ernie Couch, Nowell Donovan, Lynn Flahive, Sally Fortenberry, Andy Fort, Gregg Franzwa, Ellen Garrison, David Grant, Phil Hadlock, Sanoa Hensley, Jennifer Higa, Paul King, Pat Kinkade, Ed Kolesar, Derek Kompare, George Low, Joan McGettigan, Dick Rinewalt, Magnus Rittby, Mike Sacken, Gene Smith, Greg Stephens, Carol Stephenson, Elizabeth Taylor, Peggy Watson, Melissa Young.

Members absent: Sheila Allen, George Brown, Ronald Burns, Mike Butler, Thadd Duhigg, Ron Flowers, Rob Garnett, Marla Murphy, Joe Bobich, Nancy Meadows, Linda Moore, Angeline Powell, Ron Watson.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nowell Donovan at 3:40 p.m.

The Minutes of the 5 October meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved with corrections. The corrected minutes are on file.

Old Business :

Mr. Brian Casebolt (SGA Academic Affairs chair) noted that the SGA/Faculty UCR forum is being held tonight (the evening of the second of November). Faculty senate members were urged to attend the forum.

New Business :

Chair Donovan said that the Executive policy was to solicit informative reports from key players in the Administration.

Donovan reviewed item three of the Chancellor's Commencement speech (Attachment 1) involving admissions. He then introduced Dean Ray Brown from TCU admissions. Dean Brown provided a profile of the entering class and also copies of an admissions brochure that is sent to prospective students. In general, students apply to more colleges than they used to, the average was 6.4 two years ago. In the northeast they apply to 8 - in the west to 4 or 5. Of 150K brochures sent out, 10% request admissions materials. Twenty years ago TCU probably enrolled 60% of all the students to whom we offered admission, yet last year only 38% were enrolled. Yield will drop further with online applications since it is so easy to submit things on line. Currently admissions are understaffed because of greater than usual attrition. Though admissions staff contacts are important - the contacts with faculty are much more important. TCU is participating in a new online program that allows prospective students to ask current TCU students about the campus. Admissions is going to ask department chairs to write a letter of welcome that can be sent to those students who know their major.

Senator Couch noted that we only have 3% foreign students. Yesterday (1 November, 2000) there was an online virtual college fair for international students (there had been one the previous week for domestic students) but both didn't work well because the servers were overwhelmed and crashed.

Senator Fort asked about outreach to the FW schools with high minority enrollment. Dean Brown said this was not an easy question but was being followed up.

Senator King asked if there was a pattern among students who are admitted but don't enroll. Dean Brown said that such data have not been kept.

Senator Franzwa asked what was being done to target the really smart students and if anything special was being done for them. Dean Brown said that admissions has not paid attention to National Merit Scholars in the past, but we will in the future. Senator Franzwa said this is important because a few good students tend to improve the whole academic enterprise.

Dean Brown said that TCU is trying to gain a higher profile in national college guides, such as Peterson's Guides. They are trying to work to get more high achieving Students of Color. We are going to have a mentoring program to work with the small number of students of color who applied. The idea is to connect current students with prospective students.

Senator Becker noted that we should attract more men to campus since we have such a large number of female students.

Senator McKettigan noted that she doesn't like the cover picture on the admissions brochure because it shows two white heterosexuals and doesn't have a picture that enforces the notion of academics.

Chair Donovan said the faculty need to get involved and do our bit to help bring students into TCU.

Chair Donovan presented the Vice Chancellor of Finances, Carol Campbell who gave an excellent presentation on university finances.

Senator Fort asked VC Campbell where, in our budget, there is great opportunity for TCU and where there are weaknesses. VC Campbell said there are more good things to fund than there is money to fund them. Our biggest opportunity is deciding where the money should be put to get the best response for the institution. She thinks we are underpriced as an institution.

Senator Sacken noted we could save money by cutting programs.

Senator McKettigan asked about the status of Peoplesoft. VC Campbell said it is working better than it used to.

Bob Seal reported good progress in his Core Curriculum charge and requested input.

In a magnificently illustrated finale, Chair Donovan complained that the sizeable flock of birds have feathered their nests by migrating from the environs of the Bailey Building to the Sid Richardson arboretum. They apparently delivered a heavenly gift, not unlike Mana, onto the Chair while he was on senate business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur B. Busbey
Secretary

Attachment 1

Item 3 From Chancellor Ferrari's Fall, 2000, Commencement Speech

Third, to take steps to continue to increase the academic profile and diversity of our undergraduate student body. This will call for gradual increases in admissions selectivity, the strengthening of our honors program, and the recognition of demonstrated academic excellence among our students. I will be asking our new Dean of Admission, Ray Brown, in consultation with the University Committee on Admissions to propose a sensible yet vigorous plan to accomplish this goal;