

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
5 December 2002

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

Members absent: David Cross, Paul King, Elizabeth Taylor, Bill Vanderhoof.

Chair Watson convened the meeting at 3:37PM.

The Chair greeted guests and read the names of faculty serving on the Core Curriculum Committee (CCC).

Senator Cagle moved that approval of the November, 2002 minutes be deferred to the February, 2003 meeting. The motion was approved.

The Chair discussed the upcoming online faculty poll on the progress of the CCC.

Chancellor Ferrari gave a talk outlining the progress at TCU in the fall semester. He focused on facility improvements, progress on the new core, the upcoming SACS visit, positive accreditation reviews of the professional programs, the close collaboration of the Faculty Senate, Staff Assembly and SGA, and the progress on the search for the new Chancellor. He noted that there will be challenging budget problems, but added that he did not view our situation as a crisis, noting that Moody recently gave TCU a AA3 long term rating, while some schools were downgraded. He closed reminding Senators about the December graduation.

Ex-Senator Franzwa asked the Chancellor if he thought that TCU would still remain committed to issues of leadership and diversity in the overlay. The Chancellor said that the commitment would remain. Senator Nichols asked if the university would provide the resources necessary for implementing the new core and the Chancellor said resources would be available.

Ferrari noted that TCU had recently made a terrific investment in its physical resources and must now make investments in its human resources. "People issues" must now be a top priority.

Chair Watson asked the Chancellor if we would continue our relationship with Norman Drummond and Howard Prince as academic leadership mentors. He noted that TCU is looking at possible ways to maintain contacts with one or both of these individuals in the future.

Dean Lush said that this was consistent with the thinking of the deans.

Core Curriculum Committee (CCC) Presentation

A polished draft of the new CCC proposal was distributed to Senate members. Ex-Senator Nowell Donovan, member of the CCC, noted that committee tried to first think of the needs of students and did their best to leave ‘turf issues’ out of considerations. The CCC tried to be as objective as possible and thus some compromises are present. He reminded the Senate that the document that was distributed was a working document, a draft, of a minimalist core design. They felt it important to make a lean core that would be distributed to the colleges and that it would be up to the colleges to provide tweaking appropriate for that college.

He then provided a distilled view of the overlay model and the content area and noted that the design was driven by outcomes. He noted a number of things that still must be done:

1. There must be input from stakeholders.
2. The model must be carefully refined.
3. The vetting process must be carefully clarified.
4. We must assemble a catalog of those current courses that would meet the expectations for new core classes.
5. The matter of instructor credit assignment must be discussed for those cases where there are team-taught interdepartmental courses. Imaginative and careful consideration is required here.

The CCC notes that student advising is of critical concern here. They feel TCU needs to take a clear and detailed look at advising and devise an efficient, human-based advising system. He noted that the SGA and student body are very interested in the new core and want to help.

The Executive Committee presented the Faculty Senate a draft motion concerning acceptance of the core model and commitment to continued development. After a vigorous clarifying discussion, the motion was finalized.

The Faculty Senate endorses the basic overlay model for a TCU undergraduate core curriculum as developed by the Core Curriculum Committee and requests that the Committee offer, by April 1, 2003, a final version, including the completion of outcome descriptions, and steps toward implementation. We understand that this model may still undergo changes as discussions continue during the spring of 2003 and as the individual colleges are consulted more extensively. The final version is subject to the approval of the Senate and then of all faculty.

Senator Sacken moved that we accept the motion and it was seconded by Senator Gene Smith. After discussion Senator Flahive called the question. The motion passed with 25 votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Arthur B. Busbey, Secretary