

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
7 December, 2000

Members present: Chuck Becker, Joe Bobich, Ronald Burns, Art Busbey, Mike Butler, George Brown, Ernie Couch, Nowell Donovan, Thad Duhigg, Lynn Flahive, Ron Flowers, Andy Fort, Gregg Franzwa, Ellen Garrison, David Grant, Phil Hadlock, Sanoa Hensley, Paul King, Pat Kinkade, Ed Kolesar, Derek Kompare, Linda Moore, Joan McGettigan, Roger Pfaffenberger, Dick Rinewalt, Gene Smith, Greg Stephens, Peggy Watson, Ron Watson.

Members absent: Sheila Allen, Carolyn Cagle, Sally Fortenberry, Rob Garnett, Jennifer Higa, George Low, Marla Murphy, Nancy Meadows, Angeline Powell, Magnus Rittby, Mike Sacken, Carol Stephenson, Elizabeth Taylor, Melissa Young.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nowell Donovan at 3:37 p.m.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The Minutes of the 2 November meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved with corrections.

Chair Donovan introduced a guest, Jean Andrus (Chair of the Staff Assembly), who thanked the Faculty Senate for our help in supporting the staff efforts to address problems of salaries and benefits.

Bob Seal (Library Director) gave a presentation on the current status of the library. Library use is up, partially due to the computer labs and the new cafe. Both of these have drawn additional students and faculty into the library. In the first 100 days of the semester there were 160,000 entries into the library (7,700 unique individuals), twice as many as in the previous similar period. Though new computers have been added to the lab there are still students who stand in line to use them. Of late much emphasis has been placed on electronic resources, but we continue to invest in the print resources. The library now has 1.3 million volumes, of which 29,500 were added in 2000. Over 200 data bases and 900 scholarly journals are online. TCU supports the JSTORE Project, which seeks to digitize all runs of many journals, even as far back as the 18th century. Lately the library has been working on setting up a personal portal system for users, to allow customized database and other electronic resources on personal web pages. Bob passed out copies of the library mission statement.

At the direction of Chair Donovan, copies of the first UCR report were distributed. The Chair charged us to look over the document in regard to outcomes and in reflection on the committee charge. This document will eventually be widely distributed and Senate members were requested to digest the document before attending the faculty forum on the core to be held the evening of January, 25th, 2001.

Senator Bobich asked if this report could be distributed to all board members. Provost Koehler said that the Academic Affairs Committee will bring information from this report to the general board.

Chair Donovan noted that the next stage of the of the core review process is to decide how to meet the objectives. The plans are to set up three separate and parallel faculty committees with the same charges in order to discern common threads. Additional studies will combine the results of the three parallel studies. It was noted that new classes might be needed and that the Chancellor will help with incentives for faculty to develop these new courses.

Senator George Brown asked if the committees were looking for any specific courses. Chair Donovan remarked that they would look for an eclectic blend of courses.

Senator Fort asked about the size of the committees. Chair Donovan said they would have approximately six members. Senator Fort suggested that departments should be polled for suggestions of committee members. The Chair suggested that suggestions could be submitted to the UCR listserv to be widely distributed. Senator Fort said he wanted to make sure the departments are listened to, and that all appointed members are genuinely interested. Chair Donovan reiterated that faculty should communicate with Koehler and Donovan to make any committee membership suggestions known.

Chair Donovan noted that the core adoption has been put off a year, providing an additional development year. Senator McGettigan asked if this would start after two catalogs and Provost Koehler said a supplement would be prepared.

Provost Koehler said that members of the Academic Affairs Committee would attend the faculty core forum.

The Chair noted that so far only 40 faculty have filled in the Frog Finder information and urged faculty to use this resource.

As a last point Senator Bobich noted that there should be incentives for faculty to teach UCR courses and suggested that only above average faculty should be allowed to teach UCR courses. It should be an honor to teach such courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur B. Busbey
Secretary