**Student Relations Committee Year-End Report, 2017-18.**

Committee Members: Sharon Canclini, Phil Esposito, Morgan Kiani, Alex Lemon, Albert Marichal, Brandy Quinn, Adam Schiffer (chair), Krista Scott (FSEC liaison), Michael Sherrod, Robin Wright.

**STANDING CHARGES**

*Meet with officers of the Student Government Association (SGA) and SGA House of Representatives at least annually in order to monitor issues of concern to the student community. Attend the weekly meetings of the SGA.*

We met with two SGA executive officers in April. Student priorities during this academic year included campaigns for mental-health awareness and against sexual assault. Most recently, they are attempting to raise awareness about the high cost of textbooks and gently communicate to professors that we should be cognizant of 1) the burden they place on students, and 2) the sources of variation in cost, such as new vs. used, rental vs. purchase, and unreturnable supplementary materials. A priority for next year will be working on various issues regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We rotated attendance at SGA meetings among the committee members and were able to report to the FSEC on the proceedings of most of the meetings.

*Consult with Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, and share with FS; provide Faculty Senate feedback to these units.* -AND- *Represent the Faculty Senate on matters involving student concerns.*

In April we met with two representatives of Graduate Spectrum, the LGBTQIA organization that partners informally with undergraduate Spectrum. They told us about their rebranding efforts and several planned events such as a blood drive and drag night. They sought advice from us on publicizing their efforts and we told them about various campus resources.

In February we met with Kathy Cavins-Tull, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. She updated us about ongoing concerns such as the flu, graduation and retention rates, drug use on campus, and Greek life. She expressed a strong desire to move fraternity and sorority rush away from August, which dovetailed with a recommendation from a well-researched report by the VIA Strengthen TCU Experience and Campus Culture committee. We decided to draft a resolution, for full Senate consideration, supporting the committee’s recommendation. We spent the March meeting drafting the resolution and submitted it to the FSEC for inclusion on the April full Senate meeting’s agenda. After some discussion, it was withdrawn and the committee subsequently decided to table the issue until next year, as we await the recommendations from a committee on the status of Greek life that has been formed at the university level.

**SPECIAL CHARGE**

*Follow up on recommended actions regarding veterans as approved by FS on May 4, 2017.*

The approved actions were in support of the establishment of a Veterans Resource Center on campus that would house the Veterans Services Department, the Veteran Affairs Certifying Official, and the Student Veterans Alliance, and would include a conference room and a lounge space where the veteran and military community can congregate.

In November we met with April Brown, director of Veterans Services, and two veteran students. They were not aware of any progress or actions on the part of the administration regarding any aspect of the FS resolution. They articulated ongoing concerns including needing a dedicated space for veteran students to congregate, socialize, study, and be mentored; the fact that resources haven’t kept up with the rapid growth of the veteran population on campus; a feeling of a lack of connectivity to campus that is common among veteran students; desiring more early contact with veteran students including more extensive orientation; and desiring special courses to help returning students refresh “perishable skills” like math.

Adam Schiffer, Chair