

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
03 September 2015
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Argenbright, Kristi; Baker, Kathy; Bedford, David; Begnoche, David; Busbey, Art; Castro-Balbi, Jesus; Coffey, Jeff; Esposito, Phil; Farmer, Billy; Friedman, Greg; Fry, Julie; Geider, Jeffrey; Gil, Dan; Gollaher, Timothy; Hammad, Hanan; Hokayem, Hayat; Jenkins, David; Jenschke, Monica; Jimerson, Jo Beth; Kerstetter, Todd; Krochmal, Max; Lahutsky, Nadia; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lim, Steve; Lovett, John; Meier, William; Michaelides, Efstathios; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Carrie; Moore, Jeff; Moore, Linda; Packard, Sally; Petrovich, James; Powell, Samantha; Quesada, Janis; Sandell, David; Sawyer, Chris; Scherger, Michael; Schrodt, Paul; Scott, Krista; Shniderman, Adam; Shorter, Alan; Simanek, Eric; Skinner, Michael; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Greg; Warrington, Patricia; Whitworth, Keith; Williams, Daniel; Woodworth, Steven; Wright, Robin; Zhang, Qiao

Senators Excused

Barth, Tim; Schiffer, Adam; Solomon, Gloria;

Senators Absent

Kim, San-ky; Mann, Steve; Palko, Steve; Ramasesh, Ranga; Yorkston, Eric

Guests Present

Provost Nowell Donovan, Jay Iorizzo (Chair, Staff Assembly), Tuyen Hoang (TCU 360 reporter), Kathy Cavins-Tull (Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs), Catherine Wehlburg (Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness); Kathryn Sederberg; Marie Schein; Scott Williams; Jessica Fripp.

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Stathis Michaelides called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the April 30, 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as submitted.

Old Business

3. N/A

New Business

4. New Senators were welcomed to the Senate.

5. Jay Iorizzo, Director of Campus Recreation and Chair of the Staff Assembly spoke briefly by way of introduction, and expressed the Staff Assembly's desire to work with the Faculty Senate toward joint goals.
6. Provost Donovan welcomed the Senators to the new school year, and spoke briefly about the joint venture with UNTHSC for a medical school, the upcoming search for a medical school Dean, and the need for, and difficulty of, accreditation of the new school. He also fielded questions from the Senators about the medical school. Subsequently, he offered updates on various building projects, plans for the University's physical plant, academic freedom, and other issues.
7. Senate Chair Stathis Michaelides then made a few remarks, beginning by introducing the members of the Senate Executive Committee. He then spoke briefly about protocol and decorum in Senate meetings. That was followed by introductions of the various Senate committee chairs. He mentioned various significant issues that would be discussed (sooner or later) by the Senate, including discussion of the Campus Carry issue which began in this meeting. Then he spoke about the historical importance of the University, the role of faculty (including etymology of the term), making the point that faculty are, and have always been, the essence of the university. That led to a discussion of the importance of the work we do in the Senate, and in the Senate committees. Finally, he proposed an optional "Senate happy hour" at a location down the street after the monthly Senate meetings end each month.
8. Discussion of the Campus Carry legislation and TCU's decision to opt out or not, occupied the remainder of the meeting.
 - a. The Senate will shortly send an email campus-wide, encouraging any faculty to share their thoughts with the Senators in writing. The Senate will create a Sharepoint site where those comments with names attached will be shared with all faculty.
 - b. Much discussion ensued, with various Senators expressing opinions, pro and con, and often heartfelt on both sides.
 - c. Important questions were raised, such as the number of students, faculty, and staff who have (or might obtain) concealed carry licenses, the results from other universities and other states where concealed carry is permitted on university campuses, and so forth.
 - d. An important issue was raised that a parallel discussion is needed to address safety on campus more broadly, including discussion of possible safety mechanisms such as panic buttons, the ability of faculty to lock down classrooms, and other such things.
 - e. Further discussions will be held with various groups on campus over the next few months, and the Senate encourages all faculty to participate in those discussions.

The Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary