

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting
02 February 2016
3:30 – 5:00 PM
Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Allender, Marinda; Atkinson, Sean; Bashore, Lisa; Bedford, David; Bradley, Layne; Busbey, Art; Canclini, Sharon; Carrión, José; Castro-Balbi, Jesús; Chimbél, Aaron; Coffey, Jeff; Frable, Pamela; Friedman, Greg; Fry, Julie; Gollaher, Timothy; Havens, Jill; Hokayem, Hayat; Jimerson, Jo Beth; Jones, Clark; Kim, San-ky; Legatski, Ted; Lim, Steve; Lovett, John; Maas, Penny; Mayne, Rhiannon; Meier, William; Michaelides, Efstathios; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Jeff; Murray, Joddy; Powell, Samantha; Preston, David; Sandell, David; Sawyer, Chris; Scherger, Michael; Schiffer, Adam; Scott, Krista; Sherrod, Melissa; Sherrod, Michael; Shorter, Alan; Skinner, Michael; Stephens, Greg; Walters, Patricia; Watkins, Timothy; Whitworth, Keith; Wright, Robin; Yorkston, Eric

Senators Excused

Baker, Kathy; Farmer, Billy; Kerstetter, Todd; Ledbetter, Andrew; Spice, Loren; Williams, Daniel

Senators Absent

Argenbright, Kristi; Gil, Dan; Hammad, Hanan; Jenschke, Monica; Johnson, Kevin; Krochmal, Max; Ledis, Dennis; Moore, Carrie; Packard, Sally; Palko, Steffen; Quesada, Janis; Ryu, Jay; Walker, Charles

Guests Present

Provost Nowell Donovan, Carrington Henson (TCU 360 reporter), Abbey Widick (SGA), Ed McNertney (Director, TCU Core Curriculum), Aisha Torrey-Sawyer (Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness Committee), Karen Steele (Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness Committee)

Call to Order

- 1) Faculty Senate Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi called the meeting to order at 3:30, and welcomed returning Senators who were on academic leave last semester.
- 2) The minutes of the December 1, 2016 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as submitted.
- 3) Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi reminded senators of the faculty's role in educating our community and the public on the value and relevance of academic freedom, shared governance, tenure,

cultivating ideals, and above all the pursuit of truth as key to the creation and dissemination of knowledge as well as to faculty practicing collaborative & visionary leadership for TCU.

Previous Business

- 4) Provost Donovan updated the Senate on current thinking on a University testing center (he is leaning toward decentralized facilities in each school/college, but a firm decision has not yet been made). He then engaged with the Senators in Q&A about the issue. Questions were raised about possible economies of scale through a centralized testing center, issues with students who might have questions during exams, issues regarding students with disabilities, establishing consistent policies for testing centers across the University, and so forth.

On a separate matter, Provost Donovan also noted that, instead of the normal structure for their semiannual meeting, the Board of Trustees will hold a (mostly) closed retreat to consider master planning for the University moving forward, evaluating the Chancellor's goals (e.g., increasing number of scholarships and endowed chairs, etc.), and other such issues.

- 5) Ted Legatski, Chair-Elect of the Senate, provided an update of progress on a student honor code, and introduced a motion: "The Faculty Senate reaffirms its support of and commitment to a student-led academic honor code." The current system will be left in place, but the option for an honor board to consider academic misconduct issues has been inserted into the process. The Provost will appoint a coordinator from the faculty. Dr. Legatski then entertained questions from the Senators:

- i) This honor code has been developed with undergraduate students in mind, but the graduate student council has expressed interest in the graduate student body being included under the policy, and there is nothing that would necessarily exclude them. Of course, if they were included, graduate students would fill the relevant roles on the honor board for cases involving graduate student misconduct.
- ii) One other change that may prove significant over time is that reporting of academic misconduct will no longer be optional. Campus-wide records will be kept of confirmed academic misconduct, and students will be held accountable for patterns of misconduct across all academic units.
- iii) The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- 6) A report was given on work done by the University Ad-Hoc Committee, "TCU and the Environment." In Dr. Slattery's absence, the update was given by Dr. Stathis Michaelides. Recycling around the University has improved. A recommendation may be coming soon proposing an office of sustainability, with a faculty member holding the position of Sustainability Officer. Nothing is set in stone yet, and various proposals are under discussion among the members of the committee.
- 7) An update was given by Dr. Bill Meier (Chair of the Committee on University Committees) regarding the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness Committee. He reviewed the

representation on the committee, which includes faculty, staff and both undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Steele briefly provided additional information to the assembled Senators regarding the work of the committee.

- 8) In executive session, the Senate then considered recommendations for Honorary Degrees to be awarded by the University. Announcements of honorary degrees awarded will be made at the close of the academic year.

The Senate adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary