

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
April 2002

Members present: Charles Becker, George Brown, Ron Burns, Arthur Busbey, Carolyn Spence-Cagle, Nowell Donovan, Thad Duhigg, Sharon Fairchild, Andy Fort, Sally Fortenberry, Pam Frable, Gregg Franzwa, Jennifer Higa, Ed Kolesar, Derek Kompare, George Low, Joan McGettigan, Dick Rinewalt, Magnus Rittby, Bill Vanderhoof, Peggy Watson, Ron Watson, Ralph Woodward

Members absent: Ron Flowers, Phil Hadlock, Melissa Burns, Joe Bobich, Lynn Flahive, Ellen Page Shelton, Paul King, Nancy Meadows, Elizabeth Taylor, Don Nichols, Sanoa Hensley, Jeffrey Todd, Mike Sacken, Melissa Young, Rob Garnett, Gene Smith

Chair Carolyn Spence-Cagle called the meeting to order at 3:40pm, before a quorum was reached. Quorum was finally filled by the arrival of several senators during the T, P & G report.

Report of the Tenure, Promotion and Grievance Committee

Senator Kolesar presented a brief report on the modified document, that now includes the ‘modern’ feature of mediation and noted that the TP&G Committee considered the document to be very positive and useful. One person, not on faculty senate (with experience in grievance matters), felt that a mediation time of 20 days was insufficient and Senator Kolesar suggested 30 days. Senator Fort noted that the person Senator Kolesar mentioned was from the Religion Department and had also suggested 30 days. Senator Brown noted that the document did not specify if calendar or working days were meant. Senator Kolesar said the Committee meant calendar days, so Senator Brown agreed that 30 days seemed appropriate.

When asked, the Chancellor noted that he would like the document to permit 2 calendar weeks for the final decision by the Chancellor.

Because of questions on the meaning of ‘days’, the Senate agreed that the final document should clearly state that calendar days are meant.

Senator Kolesar noted that the procedure set forth in the document is designed to allow problems to be solved at the lowest levels before having to submit them to the highest administration.

**Senator Brown moved to accept the document with suggested changes.
Senator Fairchild seconded the motion. With no opposition the motion
carried.**

Report of the Academic Excellence Committee

Senator Kompare summarized the results of discussions on the Committee’s most important charges. Discussion on the meaning of the Teacher-Scholar model resulted in

the recommendation that such a major issue should be taken up by the AEC next year as the major charge, since the Committee thinks it is as important as the core. He also noted that in the full report the importance of graduate support is discussed.

The Committee was also asked to investigate matters of academic honesty and the feasibility of an honor code. They felt that an honor code should originate from students rather than from the faculty. They felt that for a code to be successful students need to police each other. Faculty should support an honor code, but the thrust should come from students. In turn, faculty should help to change the academic culture and help to promote the idea of an honor code. The AEC suggests that faculty members should include a statement about academic integrity in the syllabus, with a clear definition of both the term and the consequences of its violation.

The Committee also suggested revising the grading standards to distinguish between grade levels. Currently a B is listed as Exceptional, when it should be listed as Good.

Senator Woodward initiated a brief interchange on the efficacy of introducing pluses and minuses to the grading. Senator Fort noted that about 10 years ago a survey of faculty and students at TCU indicated that 55% eschewed them, but suggested we again look into this next year. Senator Watson noted an INTERCOM survey last year suggested that students were tentatively in favor of pluses and minuses.

Senator Kompare said that the AEC should work closer with Admissions to help shape the promotion of TCU and suggested that the Executive Committee make this a specific charge to the AEC next year. The Committee feels that University offices engaged in recruitment, admission and retention should solicit greater faculty input. Senator Fort thinks that such offices should have greater faculty input but that faculty have been hesitant to do this in the past because such service is not in the reward structure.

Finally the AEC recommended that we not merge academic misconduct hearings with other violation hearings. They feel that academic misconduct is special and different from regular misconduct and that faculty should see the process through. The current structure should, however, be improved. They suggest a streamlined centralized process including biannual activity reports on violations and consequences. Currently TCU does not track systematic offenders so there is no way to detect recurring problems. TCU should have a central clearing house to keep records on repeat offenders.

Senator Fortenbury asked if the report recommended that if a student is found guilty of academic misconduct, if that information would be reported to the student's advisor. Senator Kompare noted that the report does not have specific recommendations like this, but he felt it was a good idea.

Senator Watson started a discussion on the requirement of faculty to report offenders. It was noted that there is a process for such reports, but the policy only states that the faculty member 'may' report it and is not required to. It was also pointed out that the

policy is punitive only in grievous situations where there are systematic and repeated offences.

The Chair wanted to know what was being done to let Freshmen know about the academic policies. Senator Kompare noted that, based on an idea from Senator Donovan, a CD with such information will be given to all new students.

Report of the Finance Committee

Senator Brown reported that there was nothing new to report since VC Coleman discussed issues in a previous Faculty Senate meeting.

Other

Minutes of the March Faculty Senate meeting were approved as circulated.

The Chair opened a short discussion on the problems involved with finding faculty who would serve on the Faculty Senate and also with senators volunteering to run for Executive Committee positions. [As of the day of this Faculty Senate meeting], there are 14 vacancies for next year but only 5 faculty had stepped up to run for those positions. Senator Becker suggested that we might consider getting emeritus faculty to run for positions, but it was noted that the current policy requires active faculty. Senator Fort again pointed out that he felt there was a lack of reward for serving on the senate and he felt we should set up a statement that persuasively argues why faculty should join the Senate.

The Chair also noted that the final faculty core forum was to be held the next day. The scheduled session is on communication abilities and Bob Frye will speak to writing issues.

Chancellor Ferarri noted that the Board was also meeting the next day and would hear reports from Board subcommittees and others. He noted that now Deans make presentations to the Board on their long term visions for their colleges. He reminded us that this year we will have graduation down town in the Convention Center and he hoped it would work. He also said he was very disappointed at the poor showing of students at convocation.

Finally the Chair noted that there would be yet another special meeting of the Faculty Senate on the 25th of April, followed by a regular meeting on the 2nd of May.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Art Busbey, Secretary