

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
March 7, 2002

Members present: Charles Becker, Joe Bobich, George Brown, Melissa Burns, Arthur Busbey, Carolyn Spence-Cagle, Thad Duhigg, Sharon Fairchild, Lynn Flahive, Andy Fort, Pam Frable, Gregg Franzwa, Ellen Garrison, Phil Hadlock, Sanoa Hensley, Jennifer Higa, Paul King, Ed Kolesar, Derek Kompare, George Low, Don Nichols, Dick Rinewalt, Magnus Rittby, Mike Sacken, Gene Smith, Jeffrey Todd, Bill Vanderhoof, Peggy Watson, Ron Watson, Ralph Woodward, Melissa Young.

Members absent: Ron Burns, Nowell Donovan, Ron Flowers, Sally Fortenberry, Rob Garnett, Joan McGettigan, Nancy Meadows, Elizabeth Taylor.

The meeting was convened by the Chair at 3:32pm. Minutes of the February 2002 meeting were approved as circulated. The Chair made a few introductory remarks and revised the agenda for the March meeting because of timing issues with the published agenda.

Incoming Freshman Status

Dr. James Atwood, from the Admissions Office, gave the Faculty Senate an update on the characteristics of incoming freshman that may be useful in considerations of the new core. Important points include:

- an increase in applications (up 6% from last year with the most in our history).
- an increase in minority students admitted up 12% over last year.
- an increase in international students of 7%.
- slightly higher mean SAT scores up 3 points over last year (just under 1,200 for new students).
- a slightly higher class ranking of new students, from 16.3 to 16.1 % (from the top of the class).
- a typical admitted TCU student has 16 to 20 courses (some more in private schools) in high school.
- 95% to 97% of the incoming students have at least 2 years or more of a language.
- 96% of incoming freshmen (2001) were in the top half of their class.
- a search for gender balance, though there is a problem securing enough qualified male students. Applications by male students to universities are down on a national scale.
- a special admissions program, the Discovery Program, for a limited number of freshmen who do well in some areas and poorly in others. The one year program is conditional and has varying numbers of students.

Tenure, Promotion and Grievance Committee Proposal

Senator King presented a modified grievance procedure for Senate consideration and also noted that a few additional items needed attention and that one of them, a survey, would be distributed via email. A packet, including the revised proposal and a discussion of issues, was distributed for review by Senate members and their constituents. The packet will be discussed and voted on in the April meeting.

The handout speaks to concerns voiced by Provost Koehler last fall. Senator King said the current document fails to emphasize the role of mediation, which is a rather recent development. The committee will propose that we use trained mediators and be bound by guidelines of professional ethics. Senator Young asked if the mediator and advocate functions were separate and received an affirmative reply.

The TP&G Committee will also propose that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will not be involved in the grievance process as the first review committee but that the review process will be predominately housed in a single Hearing Committee.

Discussion of proposed SPOT form

Senator Sacken presented a discussion of the proposed revised SPOT form that will replace the current 17 forms in use. In addition to the form, it is now mandated that every course be evaluated every semester for all faculty. The 4 item scale was suggest by Dr. Donald Dansereau.

Senator Brown asked if these forms could serve as the basis for a peer review form and Senator Sacken said more detailed analysis was required at that level.

Senator King noted that the proposal form is a 4 item scale while most social scientific research is done with 5 or 7 point scales. He said one major omission was an option for no opinion, forcing students to make inappropriate choices and thus introducing error variance. He said that more items result in greater than sensitivity. Senator Sacken deferred to the expertise of Dr. Dansereau and noted that TCU is only committed to a single run so there is plenty of latitude for change should initial data indicate there is a problem.

The Music Department used the new form in courses for trial run, testing with the old and new form. Committee members also tried the new form in their own classes, too.

Senator Fort noted that there is no space to allow a student to note positive aspects of a professor's performance.

Further CUE discussion

The Chair put an overhead up to lead any core discussions, noting that Senator Donovan had not provided the comparison of the old UCR and CUE draft [he was out of town]. She mentioned Dr. Phil Hartman's QCR core proposal and suggested that senators read it on the faculty senate CUE document page. She also asked how the process assigned on Feb 21 was working.

Senator Fort said that the Religion Department had been meeting on a weekly basis and had devised an alternative suggestion for the core. [This proposal was subsequently distributed to faculty in email].

Senator Franzwa noted that other portions of the Enos Committee CUE document still need work and discussion, including the vetting process.

Faculty Forums on the CUE will be held in Moudy 141N, from 3:30 to 5:30pm (as needed) on March 25 (Human Experiences and Endeavours), April 2 (Global Citizenship) and April 5 (Communication Abilities). The forums were instigated due to remarks at the 1/30/02 CUE meeting.

Other Information

The remaining Faculty Senate meetings are on March 21, April 4, April 25 and May 2. A joint meeting of the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association and Staff Assembly will be held in the Faculty Center on March 26th from 4:00 to 5:30pm in an effort to discuss building the TCU community

Meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur B. Busbey, Secretary