

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

5 March 2009

3:30 – 5:00 PM

The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004

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**Senators present**

Bob Akin, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Cynthia Chapa, Jason Clark-Miller, Ze-Li Dou, Gina Jarman Hill, Blaise Ferrandino, Sally Fortenberry, Greg Friedman, Diane Hawley, Fran Huckaby, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Sheri Neill, Jan Quesada, Claire Sanders, Marie Schein, Paul Schrodt, Melissa Sherrod, Michael Skinner, Alan Shorter, Kay Stevens, Maggie Thomas, Keith Whitworth, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood, Stu Youngblood

**Senators excused**

Jesus Castro-Balbi, David Cross, Rebecca Dority, Lyn Flahive, Misha Galaganov, Charles Hannon, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Linda Moore, Don Nichols, Anna Petursdottir, Dan Williams

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**Agenda**

**Call to order: 3:33 p.m.**

**Welcome guests**

Guests in attendance were Chancellor Victor Boschini and Provost Nowell Donovan

**Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2008**

Minutes were approved.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**1. Remarks from Chancellor Victor Boschini**

Chancellor Boschini discussed how TCU is addressing the economic downturn. He asked for the faculty's support as TCU is cutting back on resources and making tough decisions.

He emphasized that TCU does not have a hiring freeze but hiring will be slow. Economic factors will not impact tenure decisions. He stated TCU has momentum and is the 43<sup>rd</sup> wealthiest college/university. The TCU private plane was sold as a cost cutting measure.

**2. Faculty Senate Tenure Promotion & Grievance Committee Update (Cynthia Chapa, TPG Chair)**

The charge to the TPG Committee *is to* "...gather and summarize information related to the use by Colleges and Universities of an official ombudsman position." Within the Powerpoint presentation, it states "the word *ombudsman* (OM-buds-man) comes from Sweden, where it was first used in 1809 to designate a public official who was appointed to investigate citizens' complaints against government agencies. A university ombudsman is a **neutral, confidential, independent** and **informal** resource with whom any member of the university community can discuss a complaint, conflict or problem. The ombuds office provides a "safe haven" where people can talk about anything without fear of repercussion. Ombudsmen do not conduct formal investigations, adjudicate, arbitrate, or serve as witnesses in any administrative or legal proceedings either at the university or elsewhere." The TPG Committee will continue to explore the use of ombuds and will likely bring a recommendation to the Faculty Senate at a later date.

**3. Update on HMOV Committee Charter (Ed McNertney, TCU Core Curriculum Director)**

Senator McNertney discussed the need to develop a new charter for the HMOV Committee. When the original Charter was written, the Office of the TCU Core Curriculum did not exist. Therefore, the charter needed to be revised to reflect the role of the Director of the Core Curriculum. The Director would be a non-voting member of the committee. Official oversight should go to the Director of the TCU Core Curriculum. The Director should be the liaison to the FSEC and Provost. Since it is not a university committee, the selection of the members could more easily be accomplished by consultation between the FSEC and the Director – this is in keeping with other Senate Committees.

**4. Honors College Advisory Committee Charter (Academic Excellence Committee, Chair Blaise Ferrandino)**

Chair Ferrandino presented the committee charter for the Faculty Advisory Committee for the John V. Roach Honors College at TCU. He stated the Faculty Senate will be more connected to the Honors College. The committee charter was approved unanimously.

**5. Report on TCU Athletic Academic Services (Chris Uchacz, Director)**

Mr. Uchacz stated that TCU is a special place and it is the relationships that students have with faculty that makes TCU successful. He thanked the faculty for their support of student athletes. The goal of his office is to assist the 444 student athletes in graduating from TCU. He stated many athletes practice 20 hours per week plus performance and travel. Freshman student athletes are required to participate in 8 hours of table study time. The goal is for all student athletes to maintain a 3.0 grade point average. He indicated there is a 65 – 70% return rate on grade check forms sent to faculty. Next semester, student athletes

will present the faculty notification of a university sponsored athletic events one week prior to travel.

## **6. Remarks from Provost Nowell Donovan**

Provost Donovan announced the formation of the Equal Opportunity Committee to implement the recommendations from the recent TCU Gender Study. Rhonda Keen (TCU Nursing) will chair the committee and the charge is to ensure there is a level playing field at TCU. He stressed he supported the Chancellor's earlier remarks and that tough times will not disappear quickly. He announced there would be a Cabinet Retreat on May 12, 2009.

## **7. Open Forum**

Time expired and unable to host forum.

## **Announcements**

Chair Neil announced the upcoming Faculty Senate elections, the survey for the approval of the new Faculty Senate bylaws, and the Committee on Committees working to fill positions.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.