

Minutes
TCU Faculty Senate
7 October 1999

Members present: Chuck Becker, Peggy Bennett, Joe Bobich, Pat Bradley, Clayton Brown, George Brown, Art Busbey, Carolyn Cagle, Ernie Couch, Nowell Donovan, Bruce Elleman, Lynn Flahive, Andy Fort, David Grant, David Jenkins, Pat Kincade,, Sherrie Reynolds, Dick Rinewalt, Bill Ryan, Mike Sacken, Gloria Solomon, Carol Stephenson, and Peggy Watson.

Members absent: Sally Fortenberry, Gregg Franzwa, Nadia Lahutsky, Linda Moore, Ellen Page-Garrison, Greg Stephens, Ron Watson, and Melissa Young.

The October 1999 meeting of the TCU Faculty Senate was held on 7 October 1999 at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Sid Richardson Building. Chair Roger Pfaffenberger called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M.

Chair Pffafenberger asked members of the Senate to fill out a form he distributed, "Academic and Faculty Issues of Concern." The Executive Committee is interested in responses from the Senators about what concerns they have that the Senate could pursue. He asked that the form be returned to him in seven to ten days so that the Executive Committee would have time to examine the concerns and issues to present to the next full Senate meeting.

He also distributed copies of the existing "Recommended Policies and Procedures for Faculty Involvement in Search Committees for Administrative Positions Above the Level of Department Chair in TCU's Organizational Structure." [Copies of this policy were attached to the minutes of the 2 September Faculty Senate meeting] This policy was approved by the Senate in March 1988. Chair Pfaffenberger asked that the senators look this policy over in the coming weeks to see what changes, if any, need to be made in it.

Chair Pfaffenberger introduced guests Matt Stiver, *Skiff* reporter, Sara Donaldson, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association, Jim Atwood, Assistant to the Dean of Admissions, Larry Lauer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications and Public Affairs, and Ken Morgan, Chair of the University's Retirement, Insurance and Benefits Committee.

The minutes were corrected by (1) correcting the spelling of Bob Seal's name from *Seals* to *Seal*; (2) deleting Greg Clemons from the list of those present, since he is no longer with the University; (3) adding George Brown to the list of those present; and (4) updating the Senate Committee list to the 1 October version (which can be found on the Senate web site, <http://www.fsn.tcu.edu>.) The minutes were approved as corrected.

Senator Pat Bradley was given the floor to ask that a moment of silence be observed in memory of Professor Alice Gaul, who died last week. Professor Gaul was a longtime member of the nursing faculty who served as Chair of the Faculty Senate in the early 1990s. She began her

nursing career as a military nurse in Vietnam and will be buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Old Business.

Senator Fort's motion to change the name of *freshman seminars* to *first-year seminars*, postponed from the September Senate meeting, was brought back to the table. Chair Pfaffenberger asked for clarification that Senator Fort intended this as a recommendation to the Undergraduate Council, which is the faculty body responsible for the undergraduate curriculum. Senator Fort clarified that this is the case: the motion is to recommend to the Undergraduate Council that the name of the freshman seminars be changed to first-year seminars. Points in the discussion: A concern was raised that *first-year student* might apply to first-year transfer students, and the character of the seminars would be dramatically changed if transfer students were allowed to enroll. Fort indicated that his intention was not to change the composition of the seminars, but to change the language used to describe them. The motion carried 13-12.

New Business.

Chair Pfaffenberger introduced Mary Lane, Chair of the newly created Staff Assembly.

The following motion was suggested by the Retirement, Insurance, and Benefits Committee (RIB) and Chancellor Ferrari. Senator Becker moved that we adopt the motion:

That (1) the Chair-elect of the Staff Assembly be appointed Co-Chair of the Retirement, Insurance, and Benefits Committee with the current faculty Co-Chair; and (2) the Chair of the Staff Assembly Policy Review Committee also be added as a member of the RIB Committee.

Ken Morgan, Chair of the RIB Committee was present to answer questions. Major points in the discussion: Will having co-chairs dilute the bargaining power of the committee? Prof. Morgan did not think so since all employees have common interests and faculty and staff have been more together than they have been apart on benefits and retirement issues. Having co-chairs will show that one committee is the spokesperson for all persons effected by benefits. The point was also made that the increased constituency served by the committee would mean more power, not diluted power. Another question was raised as to whether having the chair-elect of the Staff Assembly designated as the co-chair would not be disadvantageous, since this would mean a new staff co-chair each year. It was noted that Prof. Morgan has chaired the committee for several years and his success in doing so results partly from his long-term experience with leading the committee. This was recognized as a point for future consideration but no change in the motion was suggested. The motion was adopted.

Executive Briefings.

- *Admissions policies and procedures. Dr. Jim Atwood, Assistant to the Dean of Admissions*

Dr. Atwood made the report on recruitment and admission policies and practices for Sandy Ware who is ill. Dr. Atwood distributed a handout on “Admissions Policy and Procedure at Texas Christian University” [see Attachment A]. Major points of his presentation: The results of this year’s admission cycle were that we had a good year, although not a perfect year. We have about 1800 new students—1426 freshman and 375 transfers. In terms of academic quality indicators of the new freshmen: 56% of freshmen this year and last year were in top 20% of their high school graduating class. Last year 34% of the freshmen were in top 10%; this year 33% were in top 10%. Class rank proves to be a better indicator of freshman performance than SAT or ACT scores. Another important indicator is the number of those in the bottom half of the class: this year 3.5% of the freshman were in the bottom half; last year 6.5% were in the bottom half. In 1997, 104 under students were in the lower 50%; this year there are just 41. In terms of standardized test scores, we can say that the test scores are on the rise. The 25th and 75th percentiles this year of the SAT scores were 1050 and 1250; last year those percentiles were 1040 and 1240; the year before that, 1030 and 1230. Our mission is to find students who are academically well qualified to be here. The SAT is important but we also look at class rank, quality of school, recommendations, and the admission essay. What about selectivity? We did better this year. Last year 77.5% of applicants were admitted; this year, 75%. Diversity is a little better. Last year 87% of our admits were white; this year 84% were white. On diversity of geographical origin: this year 68% were Texans; last year 67.5% were Texans. Gender balance of 40.5% male is similar to last year in which 40.65% of our freshmen were male.

Do we still admit students conditionally? Yes, but the number is down. The Discovery Program, which supports conditionally admitted students, has about 68-69 students in it; two years ago we had 125 in that program. What strategies do we use to increase diversity and retention? We go into local schools to do more recruitment of minorities. We’ve also beefed up international recruitment. When asked whether we shouldn’t offer more money based only on financial need, Atwood responded that this is being looked at.

Another senator asked how many international students there are. There are 4%. The 84% white figure does not include Hispanic students. What about the rate of yield? Of those admitted, 36-42% actually matriculate. If we increased the number of applicants could we be more selective? We had over 5000 applications this year, so we have increased the number of applications over the past 10 years.

Chair Pfaffenberger thanked Dr. Atwood for making the report on Admissions.

- *Charges for the Sixteen Planning Commission Task Forces. Associate Vice Chancellor Larry Lauer*

Chair Pfaffenberger introduced Larry Lauer, who made a report on the Planning Commission. Highlights of his report: We have with Chancellor Ferrari a new style of administration that is committed to ideas and finding out what the next steps for this university will mean. The Chancellor came here to take us to the next level of distinction. We are currently inviting members to join these task forces. The kick off of the project will be Nov 17. Bob Schieffer has agreed to be chair of the Planning Commission. There are two kinds of task forces: strategic, university wide task forces and then particular task forces for each school and college. Half of the members on these task forces are internal to the university and the other half are external constituents. This planning process will lead into the next capital campaign.

One senator questioned the notion that these task forces, especially the ones dealing with curricular matters, might bypass the faculty curriculum structure since the task forces report to the Board. Lauer indicated that only new initiatives that cost money will be go to the Board and he did not anticipate the task forces making specific curriculum suggestions. He indicated that there is a website that will post the progress of the discussions in the task forces. Another senator asked if there was attention paid to making sure that faculty advocates got on the committees. Since administrators are facilitators of the task forces reviewing their areas, there might be a problem. Lauer acknowledged that they had tried to get the facilitator role close to the administrative person who is over that area. But he reminded the Senate that there will be chairman working with the facilitator.

- *Building and Renovation Plans for Classroom Buildings and Offices. Mr. Will Stalworth, Director of Physical Plant*

Chair Pfaffenberger introduced Will Stalworth who gave an update on the various building projects on campus. Highlights of his report: They anticipate a building permit being issued tomorrow for the Brite/ TCU Housing to be located on McCart. They plan to have 88 units ready by January 2001. The Walsh Center is still not completed but it is hoped that this will be done by November. New dormitories are complete. Work on the Tucker Technology Center will begin when school is out in the spring. The Justin Athletic Complex is underway and will be completed in August of next year. The new track is behind schedule and was supposed to be completed on 17 August. The new baseball stadium has not been funded. The Coliseum is being made handicapped-accessible. A number of studies are underway for renovations to the Rickel Building and Student Center. Sid Richardson lecture halls need facelift, as does the Bass Building Living Room. Foster Hall will be extensively remodeled starting in January. Fire sprinkler systems will be installed in Ed Landreth, Winton-Scott, and Reed Hall. Safety improvements are needed for the Ed Landreth stage. As for parking: four new lots were completed over the summer. We are also looking at the feasibility of parking garage. The former Colonial Cafeteria is being remodeled for offices, though decisions have not been made as to what offices will move there. He concluded his presentation with a request that, when a

department or unit has a project in mind, let Physical Plant know at the beginning of the planning.

• **Announcements**

Chair Pfaffenberger introduced Professor Rhonda Hatcher, who is our new NCAA Faculty Representative. She asked senators to call or e-mail her with any concerns or questions they might have about the athletic program or our student athletes.

Chair Pfaffenberger announced that, beginning next month, Senate committees will make progress reports to the Senate. Bill Ryan's Student Relations Committee will be examining the issue of delayed rush that was discussed at the Faculty Student Forum last week. He also announced that Nowell Donovan is going to feed information to task forces from the faculty focus groups that have recently met. He'll report what 40 campus leaders had to say about academic issues.

Chair Pfaffenberger adjourned the meeting at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

C. David Grant
Secretary

Admissions Policy and Procedure

At Texas Christian University

Applicants for undergraduate admission must have graduated from a secondary school with the following *minimum* completed coursework:

English	4 units
Mathematics	3 units (2 of Algebra, 1 of Geometry)
Science	3 units (including one laboratory science)
Social Studies	3 units
Second Language	2 units
Electives	2 units

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- A completed application form.
- An official secondary school transcript reflecting cumulative GPA, Honors and AP classes, and other pertinent information.
- An official record of standardized test scores (SAT or ACT).
- A 500-word essay on a topic of contemporary significance. The selection of topics is assigned by the Office of Admissions and is changed periodically.
- A secondary school guidance counselor's evaluation.
- A resume of secondary school extracurricular activities.
- An official transcript of college courses taken while in secondary school (if any).

Because of the wide range in quality of secondary school education, TCU does not consider a minimum high school GPA or minimum standardized test score (or combination of minimum score and minimum GPA) as sufficient for warranting an offer of admission. An Admissions Committee reviews every applicant's file to obtain a comprehensive picture of the student's level of preparation for college.

In addition to high school GPA and standardized test scores, other considerations assessed by the committee include the:

- Applicant's high school class rank.
- Quantity and quality of the high school curriculum.

- Academic competitiveness of the high school, as measured by the percentage of college-bound students.
- Academic GPA (as opposed to cumulative GPA), which is a grade point average exclusively for English, math, science, social studies, and second language courses.
- Applicant's skills in writing, critical thinking, and self-expression, as reflected in the admission essay and/or in the admissions interview (the latter is recommended, but not required, in the admissions process).
- Applicant's time management skills, leadership potential, and spirit of volunteerism, as demonstrated in the resume of extracurricular activities, community service and/or employment.
- Evaluations of the applicant as reflected in recommendations from high school counselors and teachers.

**POLICY STATEMENT ON
ADMISSION OF UNDERGRADUAE STUDENTS**

TCU is committed to remaining accessible to diverse populations representing the region, nation, and the world.

As a selective university, admissions decisions will be based upon careful review of each student's academic achievements. The factors given consideration include:

High School curriculum
Standardized test scores
Previous academic environment and level of competition
Admissions essay
Teacher and counselor recommendations
Extracurricular activities

In addition to the student's academic record, the following factors *may* be considered:

- Geography
- Alumni ties and special relationship to the university
- Family educational background with special attention to first generation college bound students
- Talent, leadership and contributions to the community