

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**December 2, 2010**  
**The Mary Wright Admission Center**

**Senators Present:**

Bob Akin, Onofrio Annunziata, Julie Baker, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Martin Blessinger, Jon Burgess, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Jason Clark-Miller, Rebecca Dority, Richard Estes, Lynn Flahive, Sarah Fuentes, Diane Hawley, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Carrie Leverenz, Suzy Lockwood, Steve Mann, Dianna McFarland, Till Meyn, Artemis Moon, Sheri Neill, Hylida Nugent, Julie O'Neil, Steve Palko, Jan Quesada, Ranga Ramasesh, Magnus Rittby, David Sandell, Claire Sanders, Michael Sawey, Chris Sawyer, Marie-L. Schein, Paul Schrodt, Melissa Sherrod, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Gloria Solomon, Loren Spice, Kay Stevens, David Vanderwerken, Dan Williams, Scott Williams.

**Senators Excused:**

Billy Farmer, Greg Friedman, Ed McNertney, Darren Middleton, Linda Moore, Gregory Stephens.

**Senators Absent:**

Ron Anderson, Misha Galaganov, Joddy Murray.

**I. Call to Order and Welcome to Guests**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30.

Dr. Dianna McFarland, Chair of the Faculty Senate extended her gratitude to Mr. Ray Brown, Dean of Admissions, for hosting the Senate meeting at the Mary Wright Admission Center.

In addition, Dr. McFarland introduced other members of the staff: Mr. Wes Waggoner, Associate Dean and Director of Freshman Admission; Dr. Jim Atwood, Professor of Religion and Assistant to the Dean; and Mr. John Householder, Director of Admissions Operation.

Distinguished guests included:

Chancellor Victor Boschini

Provost Nowell Donovan

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Director of the Office of Assessment & Quality Enhancement

Dr. Cathy Coghlan, Director of Institutional Research

Dr. Judy Groulx, Chair of the University Evaluation Committee

Dr. Maria Zalduondo, Department of Spanish and Hispanic Studies

## **II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Minutes from the November 4 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

## **III. Special Remarks from Chancellor Boschini and Provost Donovan**

Chancellor Boschini answered questions about the recent invitation to TCU to join the Big East Conference. He made clear that joining the conference is not only good for the football team but will help other TCU teams, particularly Women and Men Basketball.

Chancellor Boschini continued his remarks with an update on the budget. He announced that the budget is good but also identified a few concerns for the future. The TEG, Texas Equilization Grant, provides financial support to students from low socio-economic backgrounds. In 2010, TCU awarded six million dollars to students in need. Unfortunately, the State of Texas is threatening to cut the TEG funding. If the State moves forward with this cut, TCU will lose six million dollars. In order to make up for this potential loss, a portion of the announced 8% increase in tuition will help fund a TCU version of the TEG that will continue to provide financial assistance to students who need it.

The tuition remission program for faculty and staff is under scrutiny by the Board of Trustees. It is probable that the program will eventually disappear, although current faculty and staff will continue to benefit from it.

Other cuts are to be expected that will impact the budget in the future.

Provost Donovan addressed the current budget of the State of Texas. Dr. Donovan stressed that the State's deficit of \$35 to 37 billion is a concern, but TCU has put in a robust budget of \$200 million. Such budget will allow for the expansion of faculty and staff, particularly in departments that are stressed. Dr. Donovan cited the example of the Department of Biology where new faculty positions are necessary to reduce the current 25-to-1 student-teacher ratio.

Provost Donovan continued his remarks by emphasizing the attention paid to the impact of technology on learning. Bryan Lucas, Executive Director of Technology Resources, is in charged of technology at TCU. Although TCU is still a PC-centered community, Technology Resources is aware that more and more students are carrying Mac computers and more faculty and staff have joined the Mac world. Therefore, this shift raises the question of the kind of technology support that is necessary. Furthermore, a recent survey in one of Dr. Donovan's classes revealed that TCU students use up to eight electronic devices. At TCU as well as at many universities around the country, questions arise as to the impact of this technology shift on learning. Among them, the crucial question about what textbooks would look like in five years.

Finally, Provost Donovan announced that, contrary to the national trend, TCU will once more provide pay raises. The provost emphasized that there is a definite directionality in the operations of the university, that TCU is living in "fortunate times," but that the administration is also preparing for potentially hard times. TCU

must establish a first-rate continuity for the students, going beyond the first handshake to deliver the type of education that will insure success to our graduates. TCU is an expensive university regarded by many as the elite and is going to be challenged. Dr. Donovan stressed that we need to know how our graduates are doing and how we make a difference. He announced that he has charged all deans to make every effort to stay in contact with their graduates and brag about them.

#### **IV. Open Issues**

##### **A. Approval of Honor Code Operationalization:**

Dr. Ted Legatski, Senate Chair of the Student Relations Committee, underlined the group effort of the Academic Excellence Committee and the Student Relations Committee to bring this document to fruition. Dr. Legatski reminded Senators that the latest revisions to the document are posted on the Faculty Senate website. These revisions include the name of the document that was changed to the *TCU Undergraduate Academic Honor Code* to avoid any confusion with the Graduate Honor Code in place at the Neeley School of Business.

The motion to adopt the operationalization of the Honor Code passed.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. The TCU Center for Oncology Education and Research:**

Dr. Suzy Lockwood, Center Director and Senate Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee presented the mission, goals, and accomplishments of the center. Funded by a \$1 million grant from the UT Southwestern Moncrief Cancer Foundation, the center encourages nursing students to choose oncology as their profession after graduation, a field that is experiencing a big shortage today. Dr. Lockwood explained the impact of the grant on the students' learning and professional experience. First, the grant has helped develop new courses to immerse students in the field of oncology. Second, students can complete their residency within one semester, then, work rotations at UT Southwestern. Students can also gain additional experience at two of the largest oncology practices in North Texas, the Center for Cancer and Texas Oncology. The grant has provided funds to support faculty in Nursing, Social Work, and Nutrition for travel to educational opportunities and programs, or continue their research.

##### **B. The Evaluation of Teaching:**

Dr. Dan Williams, Liaison of Tenure, Promotion, and Grievance Committee and Senate Chair Elect offered an overview of the committee's work to date and the progress of the ongoing campus-wide discussion about the evaluation of teaching. First, Dr. Williams reiterated that this discussion is about the evaluation of teaching, not simply a debate about eSPOTs. Thus, the eSPOTS are only one tool that can be used in a process that ought to include multiple sources of data. Since the launch of the online discussion on the evaluation of teaching, feedback continues to indicate that this topic is a critical concern for faculty. Therefore, the

Faculty Senate, as the unit representing all faculty, offers the appropriate forum for this discussion.

Dr. Williams underlined that the committee believes there is not a One-Size-Fits-All approach to evaluating teaching. Thus, faculty must be involved in establishing the process that department chairs and deans will put in place. Only a concerted and open dialogue will avoid inconsistencies and foster transparency.

To generate more feedback, TPG will invite all faculty to identify best practices to evaluate their teaching. Department chairs and deans will receive a copy of these best practices.

### C. Updates on eSPOTs:

Dr. Judy Groulx, Chair of University Evaluation Committee reported on the progress made towards the design and implementation of the new online Student Perception of Teaching forms.

Dr. Groulx announced that a pilot program will take place during the spring of 2011 in a low stake environment. The committee is working on developing standard questions that will soon be available to faculty for comments and revision. The timeframe to implement the new eSPOTS is flexible, giving faculty and the committee ample time to share input and reach a consensus.

Dr. Groulx distributed a handout that highlights the rationale supporting the new forms and answers questions about the collection, quality and validity, as well as use of data. The handout also lists many resources faculty can consult to learn more about the new system. The document also points to numerous opportunities for faculty to continue to voice their concerns and share ideas.

Dr. Cathy Coghlan and Dr. Catherine Wehlburg joined the presentation to show the new SPOT forms to be used at the end of the fall semester 2010. They reminded Senators that faculty have received a PDF document titled *X Marks the SPOT* that familiarizes them with the changes on the new forms. Dr. Coghlan also explained that the actual SPOT forms will no longer be automatically returned to the faculty at the beginning of the semester following the evaluation. They will be stored for one year, then, will be available upon request. Faculty will receive electronic reports, beginning January 2011.

A general discussion followed, revealing once more the many concerns from the faculty senators about the eSPOTs. At the top of the list remains the fear that eSPOTs will continue to be used as the sole measure of teaching evaluation.

Dr. Groulx explained that chairs and deans will have to attend training sessions where they will learn how to use the data collected by eSPOTs. In addition, she reminded Senate that every faculty member will have the freedom to design questions targeting specific aspects of their courses and will be able to report the data to their chair and dean if they so desire.

## **VI. Senator Assignment**

Before adjourning the meeting, Senate Chair Dianna McFarland asked the Senators if they wished to continue to receive the Senate Sound Bites. Dr. McFarland launched this initiative to foster clarity and transparency and make it easy on senators to share important Senate news with their constituents.

A sufficient number of senators expressed their interest, thus, Dr. McFarland will continue to send those Sound Bites.

The meeting was adjourned at 5PM.