

## **TCU Faculty Senate**

Thursday, March 31, 2011

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Location: Chambers of the Brown Lupton University Union

### **Senators Present:**

Bob Akin, Ron Anderson, Julie Baker, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Martin Blessinger, Jon Burgess, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busby, Jodi Campbell, Jason Clark-Miller, Richard Estes, Billy Farmer, Lynn Flahive, Greg Friedman, Sarah Fuentes, Misha Galaganov, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Artemis Moon, Linda Moore, Joddy Murray, Sheri Neill, Hilda Nugent, Jan Quesada, Ranga Ramasesh, David Sandell, Claire Sanders, Chris Sawyer, Marie-L. Schein, Paul Schrodt, Alan Shorter, Gloria Solomon, Loren Spice, Greg Stephens, Kay Stevens, David Vanderwerken, Dan Williams, Scott Williams.

### **Senators Excused:**

Diane Hawley, Carrie Leverenz, Michael Sawey, Melissa Sherrod.

### **Senators Absent:**

Onofrio Annunziata, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Steve Mann, Julie O'Neil, Steve Palko, Magnus Rittby, Michael Skinner.

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

Faculty Senate Chair Dianna McFarland called the meeting to order at 3:35.  
Distinguished guests included:

Dr. Nowell Donovan, Provost  
Dr. Janine Kraus, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Annual Giving Programs  
Dr. Sage Elwell, Department of Religion  
Mason Woodley and Lauren Gilmore, Student Representatives of the Next Generation Leadership Program

### **II. Approval of Minutes From The Last Meeting**

Minutes from the March 3 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. The Taylor's Gift Foundation: Lauren Gilmore and Mason Woodley**

Dr. Greg Stephens, Chair of the Department of Management in the Neeley School of Business introduced Lauren Gilmore and Mason Woodley, two students in *The Next Generation Leadership Program*.

Dr. Stephens explained that students in this program work in teams on a culminating project aimed at changing the world in some significant way. He commended Lauren and Mason for their tremendous work as leaders of a campus-

wide campaign to increase organ donations in Texas, the lowest ranking state in the country for organ donations.

Mason Woodley explained that Taylor's Gift Foundation is named after a twelve-year-old girl, his cousin's best friend, who died in a skiing accident and whose donated organs helped save the lives of five individuals. Lauren and Mason introduced a video about Taylor Storch's story and invited senators to visit the Foundation's website at [taylorsgift.org](http://taylorsgift.org).

Lauren and Mason, both Senior Business majors, announced the *TCU: Become a Donor Week*, to be held April 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and encouraged senators to share the news with their departments and students. They hope Donor Week becomes an annual event at TCU but also at other schools around Texas.

#### B. TCU Faculty-Staff Campaign: Dr. Janine Kraus, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Annual Giving Programs

In her opening remarks, Dr. Kraus stated that TCU has the highest giving rate of contributions of many universities in the country. In 2010, seventy percent of the Faculty and Staff contributed more than \$434,000 and helped to provide financial support for many deserving students, new technology, and small classes with a low teacher-student ratio.

Dr. Kraus announced that \$366 million of the \$375 million expected for this year have already been raised this year. Dr. Kraus emphasized that the Chancellor's Scholarship Initiative is part of the campaign and has received \$75 million of the \$100 million expected.

Dr. Kraus underlined that a strong participation in the annual campaign also sends a strong message to the Alumni parents that faculty and staff are committed to TCU's mission. Alumni parents are more likely to contribute to TCU when they understand the level of commitment of its faculty and staff.

Dr. Kraus reminded all present that the Campaign would run through April 21, 2011.

#### C. *Beyond the Handshake*: Provost Nowell Donovan Announces a New Initiative

First, Dr. Donovan thanked the faculty, faculty senators, and administrators who participated in the evaluation process of the two finalists for the position of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The Provost applauded the 99% participation in the written evaluation of both candidates and announced that negotiations were under way to secure the candidate who will take Don Mills' s place.

Provost Donovan explained the rationale of a new initiative, *Beyond the Handshake*, that will extend the promise made to students when they come to TCU: the promise of a superior education and a bright professional future after graduation. This initiative calls on all faculty to become proactive in keeping track of where their students go after they graduate and compile departmental records of students' success stories in their profession and/or their continuing pursuit of academic endeavors. Dr. Donovan cited the model of the Political Science Department where faculty have already compiled information about their graduates and showcase their accomplishments on the departmental website. These students

are leaders in the Peace Corps, Congress, the military, The White House, Teach For America, and in many other reputable organizations.

Dr. Donovan emphasized the importance of knowing where our graduates go for the benefits of faculty and administrators, new students who will be inspired to strive for excellence, and the TCU Board of Trustees. As a result, he urged all departments, faculty, chairs, and deans to embrace this initiative.

Last year, TCU received 19,000 applications from students with record high ACT and SAT scores, all competing for only 1600 spots. However, TCU cannot take for granted the current wave of success it is riding and the momentum it is enjoying. TCU must prepare for the future and find ways to improve what we offer to our students. Parents want to know how their \$41,000 investment will provide a superior education and a fulfilling career.

To extend the promise, Chancellor Boschini will send a letter to current and future frog parents to announce a new program, *Beyond the Handshake*. The letter will outline four strategies TCU will implement to extend the promise to students from orientation to graduation:

1. Where Are They Now?
2. Getting Connected
3. First Dates
4. Alumni Support

Departments will add a new link to their website to feature their graduates' success stories. Students will connect to mentoring faculty and staff who will help them establish their academic comfort zone. They will also connect with Career Services, develop practical experiences through internships or other pre-professional opportunities. After graduation, TCU will stay connected with students through Frog links, and Advancement will maintain up-to-date data on alumni.

In closing, Provost Donovan charged all faculty to make intentional steps towards extending the promise.

#### D. Election of Faculty Senate Officers for the Academic Year 2011-2012: Dr. Till Meyn, Assistant Secretary of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Till Meyn conducted the election of the new Faculty Senate Executive Committee officers. After a vote by acclamation for each nominee, the following senators were elected:

Marie L. M. Schein-Chair Elect (Modern Language Studies)  
Alan Shorter- Secretary (Theater)  
David Sandell- Assistant Secretary (Anthropology)

Dr. Dan Williams (English) will be Chair of the Faculty Senate while Dr. Dianna McFarland (Psychology) continues to serve, now as Past Chair.

#### E. Presentation of Motions to Update the Faculty-Staff Handbook and the Faculty Senate Handbook: Dr. Suzy Lockwood

Dr. Lockwood, Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee, presented three motions:

Motion #1: Motion to change the wording from “*Student Evaluation of Instruction*” to “*Student Perception of Teaching*” in the TCU Handbook for Faculty and Staff.

Motion #2: Motion to change the wording in the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty, Article II The Faculty Senate, *Section 3 Membership and Elections*, Items A and B. This motion will provide University Programs representation in the Senate.

- A. Members representing the several academic units comprising TCU. These academic units are: AddRan College of Liberal Arts, M.J. Neeley School of Business, College of Communication, College of Education, College of Fine Arts, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Science & Engineering, and [University Programs](#).
- B. [Faculty should be counted only in the academic unit of their appointment for the purpose of Senate representation](#). Each academic unit is allocated one Senator for every nine full-time faculty in the unit, [with a minimum of one Senator per unit](#). An additional seat will be allocated for 5 or more full-time faculty beyond multiples of nine.

Motion #3: Motion to update the standing charges of all the University Committees. All three motions were approved.

### **Announcements and Forum**

#### **a) Report on the Ongoing Discussion Regarding the Evaluation of Teaching: Dr. Dan Williams**

Dr. Williams announced that the year long discussion of teaching evaluation will soon culminate in a document that is being compiled by the Tenure, Promotion, and Grievance Committee. This document will offer a list of Best Practices in the evaluation of teaching that departments will be invited to consult as they work to design a system that works best for them.

TPG will bring the document to Senate for approval at the May meeting. If Senate approves it, it will be presented to Provost Donovan for his approval.

Dr. Williams reinforced that the evaluation of teaching should not rely solely on eSPOTS but should take into consideration a variety of components to best assess one’s performance.

#### **b) Digital Literacies: Dr Sage Elwell, Professor of Religion in Digital culture**

Dr. Elwell announced an upcoming campus-wide forum to discuss the impact of digital literacies on how we teach and learn in the dawn of an open education era. To launch this forum, Dr. Elwell invited faculty to join him and Dr. Curt Rode, Director of the New Media Writing Studio, at a dessert discussion. The meeting will take place on April 20 at 3:30 in Smith 104B.

Dr. Elwell hopes this inaugural meeting will inspire a voluntary Faculty-Staff Summer Reading Program and lead to a campus-wide discussion in the fall of 2011. Possible events include guest speakers, a colloquium, or a partnership with the AddRan Festival of Undergraduate Scholarship and Creativity. Ultimately, Dr. Elwell envisions that this discussion will guide the choice of a Common Reading selection for Summer 2012.

c) Frogs For the Cure! Mary Patton, Dean of the School of Education, Susan Oakley, Manager Training in TCU Human Resources, and Marie Schein, Modern Language Studies

Dean Patton, Captain of the *TCU Frogs For The Cure* Team, encourage all senators to sign up for the Race for the Cure Race on April 9. To date, the team had raised \$1500 of a total goal of \$5000.

Everyone who joins the team will receive a t-shirt and a purple cowboy hat to decorate and wear at the race.

d) Announcement of Motion from the Academic Excellence Committee and the Evaluations Committee: Dr. Greg Friedman

Dr. Friedman announced that he will present a motion at the May Senate meeting that is expected to limit the weight of the SPOTs evaluation on the overall annual teaching evaluation. The motion is consistent with the ongoing discussion of best practices in the evaluation of teaching.

e) Holocaust Exhibit at TCU: Dr. Arnie Barkman

Dr. Barkman announced that the TCU Hillel, The foundation for Jewish Campus Life, will sponsor the Fourth Annual Holocaust Museum, April 12 and 13 in the BLUU.

Max Glaben, Warsaw Ghetto survivor, will speak on April 12.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.