

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting

4 September 2008

3:30 – 5:00 PM

The Chambers, Brown-Lupton University Union, Room 3004

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## **Minutes**

### **Senators present**

Bob Akin, Arnie Barkman, David Bedford, Tony Burgess, Chip Burns, Art Busbey, Jodi Campbell, Cynthia Chapa, David Cross, Rebecca Dority, Ze-Li Dou, Blaise Ferrandino, Lyn Flahive, Sally Fortenberry, Greg Friedman, Misha Galaganov, Diane Hawley, Fran Huckaby, Cara Jacocks, Ted Legatski, Suzy Lockwood, Till Meyn, Darren Middleton, Dianna McFarland, Ed McNertney, Linda Moore, Sheri Neill, Don Nichols, Anna Petursdottir, Jan Quesada, Claire Sanders, Marie Schein, Paul Schrod, Melissa Sherrod, Alan Shorter, Michael Skinner, Keith Whitworth, Dan Williams, Scott Williams, Barbara Wood, Stu Youngblood

### **Senators excused**

Jesus Castro-Balbi, Gina Jarman Hill, Steve Mann

### **Senators absent**

Maggie Thomas

### **Senators Resigned**

Bob Maninger

## **Agenda**

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

### **Welcome guests**

Guests included Chancellor Victor Boschini, Provost Nowell Donovan, TCU Staff Assembly Chair Larry Kitchens, Magnus Rittby (Associate Dean of the College of Science and Engineering), Catherine Wehlburg (TCU Office for Assessment and

Quality Enhancement), Mike Russell (TCU Executive Director of Student Affairs Administration), James Parker (TCU Student Activities Director), Kimmy Daycock (TCU Skiff Reporter)

### **Approval of minutes of May 1, 2008**

The minutes were amended as follows:

The following repeated sentence was removed from page 4: "She indicated that FERPA is a convoluted law, but it does not preclude sharing information on safety and security issues."

The following sentence was amended on page 4: "The committee would like to implement a training session for each committee in the fall of 2008."

The sentence was amended to: "The committee would like to implement a training session for each committee Chair in the fall of 2008."

The May minutes were approved as amended above.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

#### 1. Welcome and Greetings from TCU Faculty Senate Chair Sheri Neill

Chair Neill welcomed Senators and guests. She predicted this to be the most dynamic, exciting, and productive Senate ever. She reminded Senators to request to be on the College and department meeting agendas in order to share the work of the Faculty Senate. She encouraged Senators to take ownership and be active representatives within their respective Colleges and departments.

#### 2. Greetings from TCU Chancellor Victor Boschini

Chancellor Boschini extended words of welcome and stated he is looking forward to working with all of the Senators.

#### 3. Greetings from TCU Provost Nowell Donovan

Provost Donovan began with the question, "Do you like the new setting?" He stated he was pleased to report class size of the undergraduate

freshman class was only ten students less than last year but had the highest academic achievements of all previous classes. He reported there is a decline in graduate enrollment but a healthy faculty body. He indicated the new faculty quality is impressive. He expressed he expected great things from all faculty this academic year.

He reported that the TCU sustainability initiatives are progressing and an annual report will be published. He indicated there is a lot of progress happening within the area of sustainability.

Provost Donovan reported TCU signed the President's Climate Commitment and it requires TCU, within the curriculum, to provide all students information about sustainability. Another aspect is the reduction of TCU's carbon emissions and this requirement must address issues such as university sponsored travel. Fortunately, TCU has talented faculty and staff to help solve the issues. In addition, Florida Power & Light will conduct an energy audit, which will assist TCU in determining specific means of reducing our carbon footprint.

He indicated construction has begun on the Scarborough Hall building, which will house the newly renamed AddRan College of Liberal Arts. It will have a faculty center but it will not serve food. He stated TCU will continue to make a strong statement of centrality for liberal arts in TCU's undergraduate educational mission.

TCU is establishing the Honors College and currently working on a budget. TCU has received a generous gift for the Honors College.

The new building will have a debating chamber and the goal is to emphasize the ability to debate and rhetorical arguments. There will be different formats for debates and it will conceivably become the intellectual center of the campus.

The Tom Schieffer School of Journalism will develop a convergence lab, which is a new way of teaching and learning.

TCU has initiated studies to explore the expansion of the library as well as a new music performance hall. He stated some of TCU's programs are busting at the seams and perhaps TCU needs a new teaching building.

#### **4. Greetings from TCU Staff Assembly Chair Larry Kitchen**

Chair Kitchens indicated there are exciting times currently and ahead for TCU. He stated the TCU Staff Assembly is looking forward to working with the TCU Faculty Senate. He mentioned that the Staff Assembly won

the Annual Fund contest, and a pie is due the Past Chair of the Faculty Senate.

#### 5. Welcome of TCU Faculty Senate Executive Committee

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee was introduced as, Sheri Neill (Chair), Art Buseby (Chair Elect), Stu Youngblood (Past Chair), Keith Whitworth (Secretary) and Dianna McFarland (Assistant Secretary).

#### 6. Welcome of New TCU Faculty Senators

All of the new TCU Faculty Senators were welcomed.

#### 7. TCU Faculty Senate Committee Reports

Each Faculty Senate Committee Chair provided a brief overview of their committee's primary charges for the 2008-2009 academic year.

**Faculty Governance Committee** – Chair Suzy Lockwood – The primary charges are to shepherd the bylaw changes of the TCU Faculty Handbook and move the handbook online.

**Academic Excellence Committee** – Chair Blaise Ferrandino indicated the committee would address the TCU course retake policy and attempt to pass legislation during the fall semester.

**Student Relations Committee** – Chair David Bedford reported the committee will assist the task force to implement the TCU Student Honor Code. The committee will also continue monitoring the system of materials for 1<sup>st</sup> year experience and admissions.

**Committee on Committees** – Chair Sally Fortenberry indicated the committee will facilitate faculty preferences for committee assignments so Chancellor Boschini can make appointments. One or more training sessions will be held for Chairs of committees and a FAQs page will be developed and included on the Faculty Senate web site for Chairs to consult.

**Tenure Promotion & Grievance** – Chair Cynthia Chapa recounted the approval by the Faculty Senate during the Spring semester of the Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Appeal Policy (FAP). The FAP was proposed to the Provost's office and the committee will continue to work with the Provost for implementation. If adopted, the committee will also continue to track the effectiveness of new FAP policy.

## 8. Update on TCU Retake Policy (Senator Blaise Ferrandino)

The current TCU course retake policy allows students to retake courses without limit and the grade of the last course taken is counted toward the GPA. There are a few cases each year when students have a C and then retake the course and receive a D and can't graduate. He encouraged Senators to review the archived Faculty Senate document (See February 2008), which provides a table of comparison with other universities. The committee has consulted with the Student Government Association (SGA) and Mike Scott (Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid) and will bring motions to the Senate soon. He discussed the committee's draft proposals. The committee wants to bring closure by the fall semester in order to maintain continuity within the SGA. The following is a summary of the details of the presentation of the issues pertaining to a course retake policy.

1. Where should the line be drawn as to the lowest grade a student can retake? Is it a C+ or lower? Wherever the line is drawn, there will be some students who will be disadvantaged by drawing a line. He indicated the number of students retaking D's is very small.
2. Based upon a peer institution review, all but one institution average grades. TCU does not set a line or average.
3. What should be the maximum number of times a course can be retaken? Professional schools often limit the number of times a course can be taken. At TCU, 80% of students retake one of four courses. These courses are specific to majors and degree plans. The committee emphasizes the importance of empowering Colleges to make decisions that impact specific majors and degree plans.
4. The committee will continue to examine issues of financial aid and will consider recommending changing the Scholarship requirement policy from cumulative GPA to the trailing semester GPA.

Senator Campbell asked, "What is rationale for the line? Do we want to encourage or discourage retaking courses? Senator Ferrandino indicated the most often cited reason for retaking a course is related to scholarships or GPA requirements for a major.

Senator Legatski inquired about the timing of retaking a course. Is there a university policy about retaking a course after a subsequent course is completed? For example, can a student retake a sophomore class if an upper class course is already completed within the sequence?

Senator Ferrandino stated there is a freshman retake policy at other universities but seemingly the issue can become convoluted.

He stated a 3.25 scholarship requirement may cause grade inflation.

Senator Ferrandino asked Senators to email him with questions and/or comments.

9. Update on TCU Common Reading (Senator Ed McNertney)

The Common Reading is housed within TCU Core Curriculum. A Steering Committee was established and Vicki Witt (Student Development Services) helped organize this year's Common Reading booklet. The readings focused on privacy and technology. An email was sent to all students to participate within the Common Reading. Over 1300 freshman essays were loaded to Sharepoint. There were 84 Common Reading volunteers and 72 groups. Senator McNertney had to say "no" to volunteers. Provost Donovan wrote a letter for booklet. Assessments of the Common reading indicated more positive than negative feedback. The groups had good discussions and were focused on one or two readings. There were 721 students who responded to the online survey. The results indicated 60% of the students read entire booklet, 17% read more than half, 13% read about half, and 2% of the students didn't read any of the readings. The article, *Twilight of the Goals* was the most read article and second most read was *Reclaiming the DNA*. The results also indicated the majority of the students knew the TCU mission statement. The Steering Committee will begin the process again soon. Senator McNertney stated, in his opinion, the process did not prepare students well enough for what was coming. He expressed more emphasis should be placed on what we are doing and why, and what to expect. The TCU Board of Trustees indicated support of the TCU Common Reading.

10. Update on TCU Brown-Lupton University Union (James Parker, TCU Assistant Dean of Campus Life)

Mike Russell (TCU Executive Director of Student Affairs Administration), and James Parker (TCU Student Activities Director) provided an introduction and overview of the TCU Brown-Lupton University Union (BLUU). Faculty can purchase a meal plan at a cost of \$300 for 50 meals.

The Chambers has 66 chairs and the audio-visual technology will be installed soon. The BLUU had to open a little prematurely and therefore it is not completely finished out. Russell reported the Market Square is a smashing success and is designed to create a community. The new auditorium is not complete. It will have 362 stadium style seats for presentations, fairs, and speakers. The ballroom and outdoor plaza will host a lot of activities. The third floor is designed similar to a professional conference center and can be used for presentations and panel discussions. The BLUU is open from 7 am. to 2 a.m. Sunday through

Wednesday and open to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. The goal of the Programming Board is to have programming at all times to give students options instead of leaving the campus. Online reservations should be available soon. Larry Markley is the Director.

#### **11. Presentation of TCU Faculty Senate Welcome Gifts**

The Senators were presented with a metal water bottle from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and a purple reusable bag from the TCU Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology Department.

#### **Announcements**

1. TCU Theme Semester – [www.themesemester.tcu.edu](http://www.themesemester.tcu.edu)  
Think Purple, Live Green!

**Adjourn 4:55**