**DRAFT**

**Governance Committee Annual Report for Academic Year 2018-2019**

The Governance Committee **met** six times on the dates scheduled for Senate committee meetings. We met in-person and by Zoom. The **members** were Layne Bradley, Sage Elwell, Pam Frable (Chair), Morgan Kiani, Ian Loveall, Karen Nelson, Johnny Nhan, Brandy Quinn, Timothy Watkins, and Greg Friedman (Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison). Graduate Student Eric Gobel attended a meeting.

**Role of Governance Committee:** The Governance Committee shall monitor and revise when needed the Faculty Senate and Faculty-Staff Handbooks, work jointly with the Executive Committee on Senate elections, and monitor the function of the Faculty Senate by recommending changes to improve its governance and effectiveness.

**Standing Charges**

1. Revise and edit the Faculty Senate and Faculty-Staff Handbooks to ensure congruence with new programs, policies, and initiatives.
2. Work jointly with the Executive Committee to nominate candidates for senate offices.
3. Monitor function and effectiveness of Faculty Senate Committees.
4. Develop and implement strategies to increase the visibility, influence, and effectiveness of the FS.

**Special Charges:**

* Shared governance: Development of a definition of shared governance to describe and enshrine the principle for future generations of faculty and administrators.
* Practices for determining chairs

**Governance Committee Activities in 2018-2019**

The Governance Committee forwarded three motions to the Faculty Senate, which the Senate passed.

* 13 November 2018 the Committee forwarded a motion to adopt a statement on shared governance (Appendix A).
* 4 April 2019 the Committee forwarded a motion to update the Faculty Senate Bylaws to accurately identify TCU’s academic units and clarify language (Appendix B).
* 2 May 2019 the Committee forwarded a motion to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws regarding the election of Senators for units with fewer than five full-time faculty members (Appendix C)

**Other activities**

Sought nominations for officer positions for the Senate. Methods used included calls for nominations via email, call for nominations in the Senate meeting, and direct outreach to Senators in person and by email to secure nominees. Ultimately, there was only one nominee for each position and for three of the positions the incumbent was the nominee.

* A few senators expressed interest in running for positions, but articulated concerns over the time commitments required. These concerns related to overall responsibilities from work, family, and community commitments and to specific TCU expectations and workload.

Developed a set of recommendations for updates to the Faculty Senate Handbook dated September, 2016. These will be ready to come forward to the Senate for a vote at the first meeting in fall 2019.

**Recommendations for Academic Year 2019-2020**

The Committee identified special charges and questions for consideration in the upcoming year:

* Special charge 2 from 2018-2019. We did not work on this charge. We would like clarification as to the intent.
* Consider strategies to encourage more Senators to run for Senate office. Make recommendations regarding leadership succession to retain the wisdom and experience of a current officer “team” when transitioning to a newly elected officer team.
* Make recommendation formalizing the designation of Senator Emeritus.
* Make recommendations formalizing procedures for filling vacancies arising from earned and family leaves.

Appendix A

*Statement on Shared Governance Forwarded as a Motion for Approval to the Senate*

**Shared Governance Statement (12 November 2018)**

TCU is a community of interdependent stakeholders that believes in meaningful involvement of its constituents in the shared governance of the university. This community recognizes that decisions and actions in any sector have implications for all other sectors. Shared governance means that all stakeholder groups participate in deliberation and decision-making. This critical participation requires a clear understanding and observation of roles, responsibilities, and channels of communication among faculty, administration, staff, students, and trustees.

TCU reaffirms its historical commitment to the practice of shared governance, which means that faculty, staff, and students – through their elected bodies – are consulted prior to (and involved in) the formulation and implementation of policies that affect them.

**Faculty Perspective on Shared Governance**

TCU faculty can effectively share in governance by playing an active role in decisions regarding the formulation, amendment, or abolition of all policies that affect them at the university, college, and department levels. They can also share in governance by participating in long-term planning and decision making throughout the university. Playing an active role and participating in long-term planning require meaningful representation, through the Faculty Senate and/or elected faculty representatives, at all levels of decision making, including the Chancellor’s Cabinet and Board of Trustees.

* Elected representatives must be faculty whose chief duties are teaching and/or research, not administration. Consequently, faculty members whose primary current roles are administrative cannot effectively serve as faculty representatives.
* The Faculty Senate is the appropriate body to determine whether a policy or practice affects the faculty.
* Proactive and sustained communication by all stakeholders is essential for effective shared governance.

Appendix B

*Recommended Changes to the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate Related to Membership and Elections, Article II, Section 3.A*

Article II, Section 3.A

Current language:

Members represent the several academic units comprising TCU. These academic units are: AddRan College of Liberal Arts, M.J. Neeley School of Business, Bob Schieffer College of Communication, College of Education, College of Fine Arts, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Science & Engineering, John V. Roach Honors College, and University Programs.

Proposed language:

Members represent the academic units that constitute TCU: AddRan College of Liberal Arts, M.J. Neeley School of Business, Bob Schieffer College of Communication, College of Education, College of Fine Arts, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Science & Engineering, John V. Roach Honors College, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and the TCU & UNTHSC School of Medicine.

Rationale:

* + Add School of Interdisciplinary Studies and the School of Medicine as academic units.
	+ Delete University Programs (no longer exists).
	+ Improve clarity of statement and correct punctuation.

Appendix C

*A Motion to Amend the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Senate*

The Governance Committee moves that the language in the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and the Faculty Senate, Article II, Section 3B be changed to add guidance for electing Senators from units with fewer than five full time faculty members.

Current language

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.

Proposed language DRAFT

B.1. For the purpose of determining Senate representation, faculty members will be counted only in the academic units of their primary appointments. One Senator will be allocated for every nine full-time faculty in each academic unit, with a minimum of one Senator per unit. An additional Senator will be allocated for 5 or more full-time faculty beyond multiples of nine.

B.2. When an academic unit has fewer than five full-time faculty members, the unit’s full-time faculty members may choose to elect a full-time faculty member from outside their unit to represent them. The faculty member must meet all standard criteria for serving as a Senator. A faculty member may not serve simultaneously as a Senator from his/her unit of appointment and another unit.