**Notes for the May 2 Faculty Senate meeting**

Following an end-of-year reception with which the meeting began, Greg Stephens called the Senate meeting to order at 3:45.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved as written.

Then, **Chair Greg Stephens** welcomed the new class of in-coming senators, some of whom were in attendance. He also expressed his thanks to the departing senators.

**Assistant Secretary Greg Friedman**announced the Senate-selected new members of the University Advisory Committee (Glenda Daniels, Harris College & David Sandell, AddRan-Social Sciences), Budget Advisory Committee (Thomas Moeller, Neeley), and the HMVV Committee (José Carrión, CSE).  Friedman also announced the new Executive Committee members: Greg Stephens, Past Chair; Clark Jones, Chair; Sean Atkinson, Chair Elect; Jan Quesada, Secretary; Greg Friedman, Assistant Secretary; and Krista Scott, Information Officer.

Old business—re-consideration of the **Resolution on Community Dialogue (FSEC)** was introduced by Greg Stephens. It reads:*Mirroring the broader world around us, the TCU community strives to accommodate a diversity of opinions, perspectives, and experiences on many issues of importance. Given these differing views, authentic and respectful dialogue must guide faculty discussions on current and future issues of concern to the University. Especially now, as we begin work toward crafting a structure for teaching our students how to speak, relate, and work productively across differences, it is imperative that faculty model this skill set. A willingness to address differences respectfully and frankly, with an attitude of curiosity, humility, and a desire to understand, should be our ground rule in all matters involving discourse and debate. We therefore call upon all TCU faculty, regardless of rank, discipline, or perspective, to listen carefully to one another, to seek understanding over divisiveness, and to engage in respectful dialogue in their discussions with one another.*The resolution was passed after a few edits (reflected in the above statement), with one objection.

**Provost Nowell Donovan** addressed the Senate and recounted the festive end of year celebration dinner to which he treated the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. He urged the Senators to take time to celebrate as well as carry on with our work. He reminded us of the significance of universities preserving and amplifying the “faculty voice.” He was a Senator, then a chair of the Faculty Senate, before becoming the Provost—all the time keeping uppermost in his priorities the importance of hearing and attending to the faculty voice. Faculty need to stand up for their rights, even in the TCU “bubble.” TCU currently benefits from a good relationship between the Administration and the Faculty. He urged us to work to keep the relationship strong. We work *with* (not for) one another. Relationships need to continue to be egalitarian in nature. Defend this principle, he urged. The Provost also expressed his thanks to the roster of FS Chairs with whom he has worked over the years. He thanked the body for the honor he received a year ago—to be named the first Senator Emeritus, a title he now has on his new business cards. 

**Past Chair Ted Legatski** presented a motion from the Executive Committee to amend the language on qualifications for chairs of University Committees. **University Committees should have a faculty chair or co-chair, who meets the eligibility requirements to serve on the Faculty Senate.** Eligible administrative faculty must have less than 50% administrative duties. One senator urged the clarification on what constitutes “full time faculty.” Ted thanked the senator for raising the issue, which he suggests is addressed as qualifying for the Senate. More questions were raised about danger of excluding lecturers from the opportunity to chair a University Committee, and about the rationale for this motion. Discussion ensued. The motion passed, after the guarantee that the question of “full time faculty” receive Senate attention in the next academic year.

**Tim Watkins** brought a motion from **the Governance Committee** that will enable academic units with fewer than 5 members to have the *option* of electing someone from outside their unit to represent them in the Senate.  **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.

Questions were posed—esp. questions about the process of selection. Watkins stated that the resolution is restricted to small academic units, esp. with new faculty members (such as SIS and Honors College, which are the only two right now). When asked, why not consider this opportunity for all units? Watkins stated that it doesn’t seem necessary at this point. It’s not an optimal solution, but may be helpful to small units with newer faculty, at this point. The motion passed with no objections.

**Michael Sawey, chair of the Educational Evaluation Committee**, addressed the Senate with his committee report. A fundamental question his committee considered this year was: **“Is it valid for student evaluations to be considered and heavily weighted in decisions of tenure and promotion?”** Student evaluations tend to disadvantage faculty who are women and persons of color. This issue is a large one—which should be closely considered going forward. The committee plans to bring a related resolution early next fall.

**Chair Greg Stephens** gave some closing remarks, in which he expressed his gratitude for what he has experienced in his role. It’s been time consuming, and interesting, and even fun, he observed. He is especially grateful to work with people who care, and who are serving because they care. He is grateful that the Senate has become a vital part of shared governance at TCU. He then handed the Chair’s gavel to Clark Jones.

**Chair-elect Clark Jones** stepped forward to receive the gavel, to make his own remarks, and to give a gift of appreciation to Greg Stephens.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Quesada, Secretary

TCU Faculty Senate