

**TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR REPORT**

Respectfully Submitted by

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2016-2017 Faculty Senate Chair

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To every Senator, to Senate standing committee chairs Joddy Murray (Academic Excellence Committee), Bill Meier (Committee on University Committees), Julie Fry (Educational Evaluation Committee), Andrew Ledbetter (Faculty Relations Committee), Mike Skinner (Governance Committee) and Robin Wright (Students Relations Committee), to Senate special committee and special commission chairs Jean-Luc Montchamp (Research & Creative Activities) and Greg Stephens (Horizon); and to faculty colleagues not current members of the Senate who nevertheless agreed to serve on the special committees and commission, for their professionalism and for answering the call for service;

To Senate officers Stathis Michaelides (Immediate Past-Chair), Ted Legatski (Chair -Elect), Greg Stephens (Secretary), Greg Friedman (Assistant Secretary) and Art Busbey (Information Officer) for their passion, patience and hard work;

To the members of the Advisory Board for their wisdom and insights;

To Catherine Wehlburg and Blaise Ferrandino, for enlightening our pursuits with kindness and expert advice;

To Mary Nell Kirk, Terri Gartner and Megan Soyer, and to Shawn Wagner, Charlene Smith, Nita Ferrell, Karen Minatra, and every staff member for their support beyond measure;

To Chancellor Boschini and Provost Donovan for their inspired leadership;

To every member of the TCU community for demonstrating the Texas Christian University ideals to the world; and,

To my family:

Heartfelt and humble thanks.

Jesús Castro-Balbi

## **FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

“As agents of change in our time as our predecessors were in theirs, we – faculty, staff, students and trustees – are united in striving for the constant improvements of the University.”

“Heritage, Philosophy and Goals,” in Faculty/Staff Handbook, p. 1.

“The Faculty Assembly is the organization of the whole faculty. Its major function is to facilitate and encourage communication in three areas: within the University; among the several schools and colleges; and among the faculty, students, administrative officials and the Board of Trustees.”

“The Faculty Senate is the representative body of the Faculty Assembly designed primarily to express the views of the teaching and research members of the faculty.”

“The Faculty Senate may discuss and express its views upon any matter affecting the University.”

“Constitution of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate,” in Faculty/Staff Handbook, p. 22

## **2016-17 OBJECTIVE**

On behalf of the faculty, propose collaborative and visionary leadership rooted in TCU’s mission and values to ensure the institution’s success and longevity.

## **2016-17 STRATEGY**

Engage an expert and committed faculty to partner with other institutional stakeholders. Study and propose improvements in structures and practices that will sustain TCU's rise.

## OVERVIEW

TCU today enjoys a strong momentum locally, nationally, and even internationally. This University is moving from being a regional to a national institution, and aspires to secure its rise. Shared governance is key to successfully managing this transformation, and calls upon the participation and contributions of all constituencies in the tradition of service that is distinctive of TCU. The practice of shared governance not only reveals and connects the talents and dedication of this community: it promotes transparency and effectiveness, making TCU truly competitive, dynamic and relevant. According to the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate Constitution, the Faculty Senate is responsible for expressing the views of the faculty “upon any matter affecting the University.” Shared governance therefore compels the Senate to coordinate the expertise and commitment of the faculty. The Senate appreciates the Chancellor and Provost’s inspired leadership, attentive ear and partnership.

Across the University, the consensus is clear on the link between TCU’s academic profile and the University’s capacity to sustain its success and aspirations in an unstable global political and economic context, and in an ever more competitive field of higher education. Raising the academic profile is an institutional priority set by the Board of Trustees that will guide the development of strategic plans at every level, including a new academic master plan.

The 2016-17 Faculty Senate’s created:

- Senate Advisory Board: formalizing the gathering and role of past Senate Chairs and drawing on the collective wisdom and institutional memory of this august body, to advise the Executive Committee.
- Senate Special Committees on Academic Profile: explore scenarios whereby TCU would raise its profile while remaining true to its mission and values.
- Senate Special Committee on Research and Creative Activities: document the extent of research at TCU.
- Senate "Horizon" Special Commission: identify upcoming topics of relevance to the entire institution.

The Faculty Senate further led the formation of:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) University Committee: draws a picture of DEI institutional commitment and makes recommendations to the Chancellor.
- TCU and the Environment University Committee: studies institutional responsibility and offers recommendations to the Senate.

The many parts of the Senate’s work, moved by the generous service of faculty but also of staff and students thus complete the overall vision of an even greater TCU within reach. Please see the Senate’s 2016-17 Handbook for committees’ membership, descriptions and charges. Committee reports are at [www.fsn.tcu.edu](http://www.fsn.tcu.edu).

## PROCEEDINGS

FACULTY SENATE CALENDAR 2016-2017								
Month	Faculty Senate	FSEC + Trustees Academic Affairs Committee	FS Standing Committees	FSEC + FS Advisory Board	FSEC	FSEC + FS Committee Chairs	FSEC + Chancellor	FSEC + Provost
August	-		-		16	18		30
September	1		8		15			22
October	6		13	19	20		27	27
November	3	9	10		17			21
December	1		8		-			-
January	-		-		19			26
February	2		9		16		20	23
March	2		9	22	23			30
April	6	21*	13		20			24
May	4		-		-			-

\* Meeting with Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Chancellor Boschini and Provost Donovan

### September 1, 2016

The Senate heard remarks by Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi, Chancellor Victor Boschini, and by Provost Nowell Donovan.

Rodney Baker, Staff Assembly Chair brought greetings from the Staff Assembly.

The Senate hosted Yohna Chambers, Vice-Chancellor for Human Resources.

The Senate recognized Senator Art Busbey, Faculty Senate Information Officer, for his work making the Senate archives accessible on the Senate website.

Chair Castro-Balbi presented the newly revised 2016-17 Senate Handbook.

October 6, 2016

The Senate hosted the following guests:

- a) Dr. Stuart D. Flynn, Dean, TCU/UNTHSC Medical School
- b) Todd Waldvogel, Associate VC for Facilities & Campus Planning at Physical Plant

The Senate also held a conversation on diversity at TCU.

November 3, 2017

Senator Julie Fry, Educational Evaluation Committee Chair introduced a motion on behalf of the EEC.

The Senate heard from the following persons:

- a) Diane Snow, Dean and Mark Wassenich Endowed Chair, John V. Roach Honors College
- b) Heath Einstein, Interim Dean of Admissions
- c) Senator Jan Quesada, HMOVV Chair and Ed McNertney, Director, TCU Core Curriculum
- d) Darron Turner, Chief Inclusion Officer and Title IX Coordinator

December 1, 2016

The Senate heard remarks by Chancellor Victor Boschini and by Provost Nowell Donovan.

Senator Andrew Ledbetter, Faculty Relations Committee Chair, presented the FRC study: “On the Status of Tenured Faculty at TCU.”

Senator Ted Legatski, Chair elect, introduced the “Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Faculty Senate Statement” on behalf of the Executive Committee.

The Senate hosted Diane Snow, Dean and Mark Wassenich Endowed Chair, John V. Roach Honors College.

February 2, 2017

The Senate heard remarks by Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi and by Provost Nowell Donovan.

Chair-elect Legatski gave an update on the Honor Code and introduced a Motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Senator Bill Meier, CUC Chair gave an update on the DEI University Committee.

The Senate moved into executive session to review recommendations for honorary degrees. The Chair subsequently wrote the Provost with the Senate nominee(s) for honorary degrees for review by the Board of Trustees.

March 2, 2017

The Senate heard remarks by Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi, Chancellor Victor Boschini, and by Provost Nowell Donovan.

The Senate heard from committees whose work will be included in the report that Chair Castro-Balbi will send to the Trustees.

Senator Bill Meier, CUC chair reported on creating, staffing, drafting charges, and establishing appropriate reporting and oversight procedures for two new university committees: “TCU and the Environment” and “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness.” Both committees include faculty, staff and students.

EEC Chair Julie Fry informed the Senate that the EEC has developed guidelines to facilitate implementation of the Senate report: On the Evaluation of TCU Faculty Teaching across campus. The Provost committed to sending this to deans, chairs, and faculty in the fall 2017 so that this might be most relevant and useful to those charged with evaluating faculty.

Chair Castro-Balbi introduced a motion on behalf of the Special Committee on Academic Profile, based on the following rationale:

The Southern Association for Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) is TCU’s regional accreditor;

SACS-COC requires to periodically review the mission statement;

SACS-COC requires that the mission statement be comprehensive, specific to the institution, current and comprehensive, addresses teaching and learning, and, where applicable, research and public service;

SACS-COC requires that the mission statement accurately guides the institution’s operations, and be periodically reviewed and updated;

SACS-COC visits our campus every 10 years, and this lapse of time consequently would be a fair interpretation of “periodically;”

Our mission statement was crafted by a task force appointed by Chancellor Ferrari and made public in the year 2000;

The TCU board of trustees approved the current mission statement on April 12, 2002 when it approved the *Strategic Planning at TCU* document.

(See Motions and Recommendations)

Dr. Greg Friedman, Assistant Secretary updated the Senate on the upcoming Senate Elections.

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Brian Gutierrez updated the Senate on the University budget.

April 6, 2017

Assistant Secretary Friedman updated the Senate on the results of the recent Senate Elections;

The Senate elected Senators Chris Sawyer and Jesús Castro-Balbi to serve as faculty at-large on the University Council.

The Senate elected Senators Joddy Murray and Tyson Browning to serve as AddRan-Humanities and Business faculty representatives, respectively, on the University Advisory Committee.

After issuing a last call for nominations, Chair Castro-Balbi closed and presented the slate for Executive Committee elections on behalf of the Elections Committee.

Chair Castro-Balbi introduced a motion on behalf of the Special Committee on Academic Profile.

Senator Dan Gil, Senate Liaison to the Special Committee on Research and Creative Activities, presented that committee's report and recommendations, which the Senate accepted. The Senate then asked Senator Gil to chair the committee in the fall and return to the Senate with actionable, institution-wide recommendations.

Chair Castro-Balbi introduced the following Resolution on the Funding of Federal Programs:

Be it resolved, that the Texas Christian University Faculty Senate, representing the TCU faculty, affirms the importance to the University and higher education of federal programs that contribute to the University's mission. Furthermore, the TCU Faculty Senate expresses its position that federal budget reductions or changes should not target programs that have proven supportive of the sciences, the arts, and other aspects of the University's mission.

The Senate voted to postpone vote on this resolution.

Chair Castro-Balbi gave an update on Trustees Relations. See "Trustees-Faculty Communications," below.

Dr. Becky Johnson presented the TCU and the Environment University Committee report and recommendations.

Elyse Menger, Director of Constituent Engagement at University Advancement asked Senators to participate in the Faculty/ Staff campaign.

May 4, 2017

The Senate heard remarks by Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi, Chancellor Victor Boschini, and by Provost Nowell Donovan.

The Senate elected the following officers:

Greg Stephens (Chair-elect)

Jan Quesada (Secretary)

Greg Friedman (Assistant Secretary)

Krista Scott (Information Officer)

Senator Joddy Murray, Chair of the Academic Excellence Committee introduced three motions on behalf of the AEC.

Senator Meier introduced a motion on behalf of the Committee on University Committees.

Senator Robin Wright, Chair of the Students Relations Committee introduced a motion on behalf of the SRC.

Chair Castro-Balbi re-introduced the Resolution on the Funding of Federal Programs. A motion to withdraw this resolution was made, seconded and adopted.

Chair Castro-Balbi shared that the FSEC is in conversation with the Vice-Chancellor for Marketing & Communications, the Chief Technology Officer and the Chief Compliance Officer regarding faculty and departmental webpages following faculty concerns across the University.

Chair Castro-Balbi introduced a motion to approve of the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Senator Pam Frable introduced a motion which was amended and approved as amended.

Chair Castro-Balbi and incoming chair Legatski shared remarks.

The TCU Cello Ensemble offered a musical postlude, followed by a reception.

## MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016-17 Faculty Senate adopted the following motions and recommendations:

*In recognition for conducting the colossal work of researching and cataloguing historical proceedings from 1970 to 2015, and appreciating the significance and many possible future uses of this contribution in the operations of the Faculty Senate, the Senate hereby presents this expression of its sincere gratitude to its Information Officer, Dr. Art Busbey.*

*The Faculty Senate hereby confirms the creation, charges, and membership of the Faculty Senate Advisory Board, of the special committee on the Academic Profile of TCU, of the special committee on Research & Creative Activities, and of the Horizon Commission.*

*The Faculty Senate hereby adopts the 2016-17 Faculty Senate Handbook as submitted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Governance Committee.*

September 1, 2017

*The TCU Faculty Senate endorses the shortened e-SPOT, as recommended by the University Evaluation Committee (UEC) and the EEC (Appendix 1).*

November 3, 2017

### *Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Faculty Senate Statement*

*The Faculty Senate of Texas Christian University, representing the faculty, reaffirms its commitment to the University's core values of academic achievement, personal freedom and integrity, the dignity and respect of the individual, and a heritage of inclusiveness, tolerance, and service. The faculty supports the TCU community's ongoing efforts to fully realize those values and their expression in diversity in all its forms, equity, inclusiveness, freedom of expression, and academic freedom.*

December 1, 2016

*The Faculty Senate reaffirms its support of and commitment to a student-led academic honor code.*

February 2, 2017

*The Faculty Senate recommends that the Chancellor and Provost appoint a comprehensive task force charged with reviewing the current TCU mission statement.*

March 2, 2017

*Recognizing:*

- *That the commitment to undergraduate education is a hallmark of TCU;*
- *That many programs and entities as well as interdisciplinary initiatives currently related to undergraduate students and studies would benefit from a coordinated support structure across the institution;*
- *That TCU has a position of Associate Provost for Research and Dean for Graduate Studies and University Programs;*
- *That, on the U.S. News & World Report rankings, the top 100 institutions and especially those institutions ranked above TCU overwhelmingly have a position charged with direct oversight of and advocacy for undergraduate students and studies;*
- *The goal of raising the academic effectiveness and reputation of this institution;*

*The Faculty Senate recommends the formation of a task force of faculty, administrators and students to explore the advisability of a position of Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Inter-disciplinary Studies at TCU.*

April 6, 2017

*The Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees that TCU provide a net positive increase in classroom availability—especially for classrooms designed for 20-40 students—as well as improve the flexibility, technology, and active learning accommodations for all classrooms.*

*The Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees that TCU achieve the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement by the year 2020.*

*The Faculty Senate recommends to discontinue the Student Media University Committee at the end of the 2016-17 academic year.*

*The Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor that TCU create and give oversight to the Veterans Service Department of a centrally located Veteran Resource Center housing the Veterans Services Department, the Veteran Affairs Certifying Official, and the Student Veterans Alliance, including a conference room and a lounge space where the veteran and military community can congregate.*

*Whereas the TCU Student Government Association has passed “A Resolution to support the Adoption of a Tobacco Free Campus Policy” and the TCU Staff Assembly has voted in support of this policy, let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate support the SGA’s “A Resolution to Support the Adoption of a Tobacco Free*

*Campus Policy,” with the provision that the wording be changed to say “prohibits the recreational use of all tobacco products on university grounds and property.”*

May 4, 2017

## **FURTHER ACTIONS**

### **Honor Code**

In the fall of 2016 the FSEC worked with the Student Government Association, deans and associate deans, Student Affairs and the Provost on moving the code approved by the SGA and the Senate in 2010. This effort did not come to fruition over objections to chairs being given a role in the process. The SGA then issued a new proposal which did not win the approval of deans and associate deans. The FSEC determined to only bring to the Senate a document approved by all parties.

### **Testing Center(s)**

The Faculty Senate in 2011 recommended that the Provost “direct the establishment of a TCU Test Center and to secure funding for the space, staff and technology sufficient to support it.”

The Provost indicated in the fall of 2016 that he had asked deans to provide data on what resources would be needed to fund a testing center in each college.

### **Trustees-Faculty Communications**

Based on a recommendation by the FRC, who had been charged with examining the nature and history of Trustees-Faculty Relations, the Senate in 2015 adopted a motion to reinstate the Trustees-Faculty Relations Committee and explore ways to develop communications.

On March 21, 2017 the Chair, Chair-Elect and Immediate Past-Chair met with Academic Affairs Committee Chair Matt Rose, with the Chancellor and Provost in attendance. The Senate Chair presented a report on behalf of the Senate and a rich conversation ensued. All parties agreed to seek further ways to increase communications.

Direct communications between stakeholders promotes meaningful partnership through effective shared governance. This is particularly important to foster better understanding and communication, and to better address future challenges as one community.

### **Institutional Responsibility**

The 2016-17 Faculty Senate collaborated with the Chancellor on forming the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness“ University Committee. The Faculty Senate similarly collaborated with the Provost on forming the “TCU and the Environment” Ad-hoc University Committee.

The DEI University Committee reports to the Chancellor and complements the work of the Chief Inclusion Officer by monitoring all DEI initiatives on campus and proposing a vision reflecting the voice of the entire community. Further, the Faculty Senate held a conversation on diversity at TCU on October 6, 2016, and adopted the “Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Faculty Senate Statement” on December 1, 2016 (see Motions and Recommendations, above).

The TCU and the Environment Ad-hoc University Committee is comprised of faculty, staff and students, and reports to the Faculty Senate. The Chancellor and Provost agreed that TCU and the Environment become a standing University Committee starting in the fall of 2017.

## Appendix

### New Proposal for Student Perception of Teaching (S.P.O.T.) Survey

#### Student Information

*[Yes/No]*

- This course is a requirement (i.e. part of my major/minor/program/core requirements).
- I am a major in the department offering this course.

*[Strongly Disagree / Disagree / Neither Agree nor Disagree / Agree / Strongly Agree]*

- I was interested in taking this course.

*[Better than expected / same as I expected / worse than I expected]*

- My performance in this course is ...

#### Faculty Questions

*[Strongly Disagree / Disagree / Neither Agree nor Disagree / Agree / Strongly Agree]*

- The instructor encouraged active involvement in this class.
- The instructor treated students fairly.
- The instructor created and maintained an atmosphere of civility and respect.
- I felt welcome seeking the instructor's help outside of class or online.
- The instructor was well prepared.
- The instructor provided clear explanations during class.
- The instructor provided useful feedback on my work.

#### Course Questions

*[Strongly Disagree / Disagree / Neither Agree nor Disagree / Agree / Strongly Agree]*

- The course work helped me learn.

*[Open-ended questions]*

- What worked well in this class?
- What are your suggestions for improving this class?