Notes from FS Meeting 3/2/17

1)     Dr. Castro-Balbi gave prepared introductory remarks regarding the mission statement of the University, and a motion of the Faculty Senate’s Special Committee on Academic Profile that we, as a faculty, revisit the mission statement to determine whether and how it should be adjusted to reflect TCU's current and ongoing efforts in research, teaching, and service.

a)     He will deliver a Senate Report to the Board of Trustees for their information since, due to the closed procedures at their upcoming meeting, the Senate will not have the opportunity to meet with them face to face. The report will be delivered in person to Matt Rose, chair of the Academic Affairs subcommittee of the Trustees. At that same meeting, they will explore ways and means for greater inclusion of the faculty and Senate in the deliberations of the BoT.

b)     In consequence of some Senators who felt their views or comments had been misquoted or misrepresented, Dr. Castro-Balbi reached an agreement whereby Skiff and TCU 360 reporters will be free to quote views expressed verbally by faculty during discussions of the Senate only with prior consent of the person quoted. Communications made in prepared presentations may be freely quoted without prior permission.

c)     Chancellor Boschini made a few remarks explaining the purpose for the BoT's private retreat. It is done each year, but usually at a different time of year than their semi-annual meetings at TCU. This year, that wasn't possible, so they determined to do it at the time of their regular meeting. In other news, student retention at TCU is improving, admissions are ahead of where they were last year. About 100 students of 270 who recently visited TCU will receive offers of either a Chancellor's scholarship or a Community Scholar scholarship. Finally, TCU has lost two prominent and much appreciated members of the community, Dr. Bob Lusch (former Dean of the Business School) and Spencer Hays, a tremendous benefactor in many ways, both financially and otherwise.

d)     Provost Nowell Donovan then made brief remarks, expressing his appreciation in particular for Dean Lusch and the influence he had both personally and professionally during his time at TCU.

**New Business**

2)     The EEC is creating a document to help guide teaching evaluations across the campus. These will be suggested best practices.

3)     The Governance committee has discussed the role and optimal size of the faculty senate throughout this academic year. No motion is forthcoming now, but we can expect a recommendation early next year that will effectively reduce the size of the Faculty Senate.

4)     Nominations for Faculty Senate Executive Committee are ongoing, and Senators are invited to submit self-nominations or nominations for others. The Executive is currently challenged in two ways: in representation of colleges, and in gender diversity. We hope that people who might be able to positively influence either challenge will consider self-nominating.

*5)*     The Special Committee on Academic Profile was created to explore scenarios whereby TCU would raise its profile while remaining true to its mission and values. The Committee made the following motion regarding review of the TCU mission statement which, after approval of friendly amendments, reads as follows: *The Faculty Senate recommends that the Chancellor and Provost appoint a comprehensive task force charged with reviewing the current TCU mission statement.*

6)     Recommendations were made (co-sponsored by the Senate's Faculty Relations Committee) that, (1) in the mission statement review process, the importance of research and creative activity be specifically noted, (2) there is a need to increase the proportion of graduate students at the University, and (3) there is a need to increase the proportion of tenured and tenure-track faculty at the University.

7)     Dr. Greg Friedman, Senate Assistant Secretary, made an appeal for the Senators to invite colleagues to run for the Senate. Certain schools and colleges are still underrepresented, and faculty are challenged to recognize and act on the importance of shared governance by self-nominating or agreeing to be nominated for election to the Senate.

8)     Brian Gutierrez, Vice-Chancellor for Finance, made brief remarks regarding the University budget. The BoT has approved a 4.9% tuition increase. That will help to cover increases in benefit line item increases, merit pay increases, scholarships, and so forth. The physical plant of the University is set to expand in the near future, with new buildings and academic space. He then responded to a few questions from the assembled Senators.

Greg Stephens, Secretary