

TCU Faculty Senate Meeting

06 April 2017

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Faculty Senate Chambers

Minutes

Senators Present

Allender, Marinda; Baker, Kathy; Bashore, Lisa; Bedford, David; Bradley, Layne; Busbey, Art; Canclini, Sharon; Carrión, José; Castro-Balbi, Jesús; Chimbél, Aaron; Coffey, Jeff; Farmer, Billy; Frable, Pamela; Friedman, Greg; Fry, Julie; Gil, Dan; Gollaher, Timothy; Hammad, Hanan; Havens, Jill; Hokayem, Hayat; Jenschke, Monica; Jimerson, Jo Beth; Kerstetter, Todd; Kim, San-ky; Ledbetter, Andrew; Legatski, Ted; Lovett, John; Maas, Penny; Meier, William; Michaelides, Efstathios; Moeller, Thomas; Moore, Jeff; Murray, Joddy; Powell, Samantha; Quesada, Janis; Sawyer, Chris; Scherger, Michael; Sherrod, Melissa; Sherrod, Michael; Spice, Loren; Stephens, Greg; Walters, Patricia; Watkins, Timothy; Whitworth, Keith; Williams, Daniel;

Senators Excused

Atkinson, Sean; Jones, Clark; Sandell, David; Schiffer, Adam; Scott, Krista; Shorter, Alan; Skinner, Michael; Wright, Robin;

Senators Absent

Argenbright, Kristi; Johnson, Kevin; Krochmal, Max; Ledis, Dennis; Lim, Steve; Mayne, Rhiannon; Moore, Carrie; Packard, Sally; Palko, Steffen; Preston, David; Ryu, Jay; Walker, Charles; Yorkston, Eric

Guests Present

Nia Brookins (TCU 360), Ed McNertney (QEP Director), Elyse Menger (Director, Constituent Engagement), Sydney Pickral (SGA), Alison Armstrong (SGA)

Call to Order

1. Faculty Senate Chair Jesús Castro-Balbi called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. The minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as submitted.

Old Business

3. N/A

New Business

4. Faculty Senate election results were shared. Elections were also carried out for the University Advisory Committee, and Tyson Browning will be the business school's UAC representative.
5. Information was shared regarding a proposed motion (as amended in session): "The Special Committee on Academic Profile recommends the formation of a task force of faculty, administrators, and students to explore the ~~feasibility~~ advisability of a position of Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Inter-Disciplinary Studies at TCU."
 - a. Vigorous discussion among the senators ensued, with questions around whether the data clearly support the need for such a position, whether TCU is too small to support the creation of two new associate provost positions (this and another to be proposed), and wording changes to reflect the sense of the Senate. The motion cited above includes those modifications.
 - b. The motion carried, as amended.
6. Dan Gil reported on the activities of the Special Committee on Research and Creative Activity. Some recurring themes included faculty time, research climate, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Institutional Review Board, and marketing and publicity. The committee tried to synthesize over 130 specific ideas provided by TCU faculty for improving research and creative activity into concrete proposals and broader findings. These included:
 - a. TCU must continue to grow its commitment to research, scholarship, and creative activity in order to grow its reputation as a nationally regarded University and to recruit exceptional students.
 - b. One of the major barriers is not so much financial as it is cultural.
 - c. TCU should review and streamline procedures and policies to remove unnecessary obstacle and barriers to research productivity.
 - d. A motion was made, seconded, and voted on to accept the committee's report, and the motion carried.
 - e. A second motion was proposed to task the committee with the responsibility of following up their report with specific and actionable recommendations for improving research and creative activity at TCU.
7. Chair Castro-Balbi then reported on a conversation he and other members of the executive committee had with Matt Rose, Chair of the Academic Affairs Sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees. A productive exchange of ideas took place, and he seemed open and receptive to the idea of future meetings with the Senate Executive Committee and the full body of the Senate.
8. The proposed federal budget includes deep cuts to many departments important to higher education, and elimination of a large number of programs important to higher education.

Chair Castro-Balbi introduced a motion indicating the faculty's opposition to these cuts. Discussion ensued, including points that there is political diversity among the individual members of the faculty, and many may not agree with the statement. Additionally, while the statement itself may not have any influence in regards to the cuts, it may encourage individual faculty to contact their political representatives to express their position on the matter.

- a. 18 voted to postpone voting on the motion, with the intention of bringing forward an amendment to the motion to reflect an actionable recommendation that faculty contact their government representatives to express their views on these matters. Pam Frable volunteered to assist in preparing that amendment.
 - b. 16 supported voting immediately on the motion.
 - c. Thus, the vote on the motion will be postponed until our May meeting. At that time, the original motion will be brought forward again, and a proposal to amend the motion will be entertained by the Senate.
9. Dr. Becky Johnson reported on the activities of the committee on sustainability practices at TCU. A motion was made to accept the committee's report, and the motion carried. It was recommended that the committee meet with the Provost to forward their recommendations.
10. Elyse Menger (University Advancement) made brief remarks regarding faculty participation in the current fund-raising campaign. Gifts can be made to the general fund, or to specific targets within the University.

The Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Stephens
Faculty Senate Secretary