Notes from May 4, 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting

1.     Executive Committee elections: Candidates running for Chair of the Faculty Senate included Dr. David Bedford and Dr. Greg Stephens, both of whom made brief remarks sharing their vision for the Senate. Elections were then held and at the end of the meeting Dr. Stathis Michaelides announced the result. Dr. Stephens will begin service as Chair-Elect next year.

2.     Ted Legatski, Senate Chair-Elect, gave a brief update on the ongoing development of the honor code. It has not yet been approved or endorsed by the Deans and Associate Deans, and until we have agreement among the various constituencies, there is nothing more to report.

3.     The Resolution on the Funding of Federal Programs from the April meeting, which had been postponed, was re-introduced in this meeting in its original form. Given recent developments in the federal budget, a motion was made to withdraw the motion. Twenty-two Senators voted to withdraw the motion, and 15 voted not to withdraw, and so the original motion was withdrawn.

4.     New and returning Senators were recognized for their willingness to serve in this important effort in shared governance.

5.     Chancellor Boschini spoke briefly about the proceedings of the recent Board of Trustees meeting. Four strategic goals were set which will ultimately need to be vetted by the faculty.

a.     Continue improving the academic profile

b.     Increase the endowment

c.     Enhance the TCU experience.

d.     Strengthen the workforce

6.     Provost Donovan the spoke briefly about the “how.” Committees will be set up (beginning this summer) to explore how best to accomplish the broad goals set by the Trustees.

7.     Academic Excellence Committee motions:

a.     “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 improves the flexibility, technology, and active learning accommodations for all classrooms.” Adoption was moved and seconded, and brief Q&A followed. Adoption was approved.

b.     “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.” Adoption was moved and seconded, and brief Q&A followed. Adoption was approved.

8.     Committee on University Committees motion:

a.     ​“The Faculty Senate recommends to discontinue the Student Media University Committee at the end of the 2016-17 academic year.” Adoption was moved and seconded, and brief Q&A followed. Adoption was approved.

9.     Student Relations Committee motion:

a.     ​“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 Cervices 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.” Adoption was moved and seconded, and brief Q&A followed. Adoption was approved.

Greg Stephens, Secretary