**Faculty Senate Minutes (02/04/2021)**

**Zoom recording to the part before entering the full executive mode**

<https://tcu.box.com/s/6r6ndcyup2gfa2ubr09pmj6y3sglunzn>

*Senators present*: Jose Carrion, Danyelle Ackall, Sean Atkinson, Lisa Bashore, Layne Craig, , Pamela Frable, Greg Friedman, Jessica Fripp, Julie Fry, Sophie Garcia, Eric Gonzales, , Jill Havens, Diane Hawley, Emily Herzig, Hayat Hokayem, Clark Jones, Katie Lauve- Moon, Andrew Ledbetter, , Thomas Moeller, Michele Meitl, Twyla Robinson, Chris Sawyer, Marie Schein, Laura Singletary, Loren Spice, Greg Stephens, Amy Stewart, Daxton Stewart, Tee Tyler, Timothy Watkins, Bingyang Wei, Daniel Williams, Barbara Wood, , Phil Esposito, Suzanne Carter, Brandy Quinn, Josh Bentley, Michael Sawey, Joddy Murray, Till Meyn, Kelly McCormick, James Rodriguez, Jan Quesada, Lavonne Adams, Laurel Lynch, David Bedford, Oteka Jackson-Cenales, Patricia Duncan, Quinghua Yang, Eric Simanek, Ted Legatski, Shauna McGillivray, Samantha Bates, Krista Scott, Santiago Pinon Jr, Arthur Busbey, Swami Kalpathy, Omar Harvey, Steve Palko, Mark Wills, Jennifer Engler, Kathryn Ellis.

*Senators absent (Excused)*: Morgan Kiani.

*Senators absent (Unexcused)*: Hanan Hammad, Sohyun Lee, Elva Orozco Mendoza, Mary Waller, San-Ky Kim, Hadi Hosainy, Marc Neri, Sage Elwell, John Lovett, Ranga Ramasesh, Guangyan Chen, Dustin Hahn, Alex Lemon .

The Faculty Senate chair Sean Atkinson called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. The minutes from October 29, 2020 meeting were approved.

Sean Atkinson asked Chancellor Boschini for his remarks. The Chancellor talked about enrollment, and he said that for the first 11 days of classes, the numbers were down a little but it’s normal for the Spring semester, so in general enrollment is looking good. Housing is 48 less than the last year, but there is nothing alarming about the numbers. He then opened it up for questions.

A senator who is also a department chair asked a question about the budget, and said: ‘I understand the importance of discount rate, but I lost a third of operating budget and 15% of faculty, why is it important to focus on discount rate as opposed to our operations?’ The Chancellor said: ‘this is important to maintain enrollment, we gave the discount in the Fall, and we can’t take it away from them in the Spring, so we are stuck with it. Since the numbers look good, I’ve started freeing positions so I freed around 13 to 14 faculty positions. I don’t know if yours is one of those but there’s a lot of them.’ The senator then was happy that there’s possibility that better news is coming down the road.

Sean Atkinson asked: ‘Roger Williams said a lot of bad things about the faculty that are not true, we certainly work hard here and this is not what Roger William thinks, what response do you have to say about what he said?’

Chancellor: ‘I take great pride in what we all do, I don’t think two wrongs make a rights, this whole thing is sad with what has been said. I don’t agree with a lot of what has been said, but I do agree with free speech.’

Another Senator asked: ‘Someone got a hold of the Faculty Senate mailing list and supported Roger Williams to free speech. In my mind it’s not a free speech issue.’

Chancellor said: ‘I disagree with you.’

Sean Atkinson asked about the stimulus money: ‘We rejected the first round, have we reconsidered the second stimulus that may come?’

Chancellor: ‘the current administration will not shame us for taking it, so we will take the money if offered. However, they have an amendment that no private school qualifies for it, so we will see. We also found out that we might be eligible to apply to FEMA for 75% for recovery to prepare and fight COVID, so we’re following up on that too.’

Another senator asked: ‘is there a chance for this money to go to the operating budget that is hit hard?’

C: ‘I would definitely consider that.’

Sean then called Provost Dahlberg for her updates.

Provost: ‘I’m giving you update on 3 area: a) process of vacant position elimination; b) faculty and staff positions that will start any time staring this Spring and the upcoming Fall, and c) analysis of how we will grow our faculty body if student enrollment keeps increasing. For the first, some positions were eliminated such as those that vacate and were never filled, those were vacant this year, and those that became vacant in December due the retirement package, and those that will be become vacant in the next few years due to participation in the phased teaching load plan. For the second are concerning hiring, not all the vacant position will be eliminated. Some of those positions will be opened for Spring and Fall 2021 searches, I can’t give all details because we are still working on it. For the third area, we estimate that the elimination of faculty will reduce the faculty by about 6%. We reduce operating class and eliminate vacant positions. If student enrollment stays the same, we will stay with the 14:1 student faculty ration if we grow by 1000 undergraduate by the next several years, then we will add more faculty. We are undertaking an analysis, which discipline will grow the most and allocating faculty positions appropriately. The analysis will allow us to estimate where future growth will happen and where we should hire. We have a committee for Spring 2021 analysis committee, I worked with the Deans and others, we took all of the concerns (student experience, academic reputation), we will model it and be able to articulate what resources we need to maintain our frog experience.’

A senator asked: ‘is there some hope of having some distance classes for cases where it’s hard to get adjuncts?’

Provost: ‘I’m not sure, if you have trouble getting adjuncts, work with your Dean. If you cannot find the right human recourses, then don’t break the sections down. We are trying to get 100% of classes on campus for the fall with them socially distanced. But we may not get there, if things don’t fit on campus, then they will have to be online. We probably will end up with 90%.’

Another senator asked: ‘Some departments that have merited leaves need instructors, can we consider temporary instructor positions?’

P: ‘Make your challenges known to your chair up to your dean, so go up through the right channels.’

Sean then moved to ask the chair of academic excellence committee, Lisa Bashore, to talk about the mental health statement that they worked on, so she said: ‘We had a colloquium in Spring 2020 to address mental health during the pandemic. On TCU campus, we had A 52% increase of students seeking counseling, the crisis hotline had doubled in fall 2020 compared with Fall 2019. Faculty are not adequately prepared to support our students so we think that the administration could invest in the resources for mental health. We can be flexible in the teaching pedagogy and having an open door policy if students want to talk us, and reduce stigma with mental health issue, and be compassionate with all the community. Rather than being rational, being kind is essential to our growth.’ She also said that the Chancellor has supported the work on mental health, and calls for more financial support on this issue. She also mentioned that there will be a mental health colloquia in March 18, 2021. Sean launched a poll to vote on the statement that had been distributed earlier concerning mental health, and it was endorsed by the majority of votes.

Sean then asked Joddy Murray, to report from the university budget advisory committee. Jody said: ‘We did not view fiscal year 2022 yet, but, given our conversations from last semester, it was obvious that Brian Gutierrez thought of academic quality as compensation issue. So we explained that academic quality is more than compensation so it can still be impacted by budget outside compensation. The committee is still meeting this semester and we will be able to see the Fiscal year 2022. Also the faculty wanted research to be funded. Sean asked if there’s any comments before the vote, and hearing none the document that was prepared by Joddy Murray and distributed earlier (Budget Recommendations) went for a vote and it was endorsed by the majority of votes.

After that, Sean asked Clark Jones from UCAC to update the faculty. Clark said that the compensation for the Summer 2021 will be 8% for academic teaching with a cap of $10,000 for the Summer salary. The adjunct stays the same. Sean then launched another poll to endorse this recommendation from UCAC, and it was endorsed by the majority of votes.

Sean then moved to the next item which was a resolution to condemn the attack on the US Capitol (was distributed before to the senators) and said: ‘We wanted to set an example that this is what a group of leaders should come in the community to stand against.’ He opened the floor for discussion. One senator said: ‘If addressed, it’s important to address the actions and not the people.’ Another senator disagreed with that and said that there were people involved so it’s okay to address the people. Two other senators said that the language should condemn actions and not people. One senator proposed a change language to “strongly condemns the attack and the actions of those that helped to facilitate its occurrence” and Sean accepted the amendment and then he launched the poll to vote on this resolution (knowing that the language was amended) and the resolution passed by the majority.

Sean proceeded to new business and asked if anyone has new business. He then updated the senate that the FSEC was considering a resolution to remove Roger Williams from the Board, but then learned that Board is considering a change the bylaws so as not to let someone who is an official politician to serve on the board, the FSEC did not move forward with resolution. One Senator was upset with Roger Williams comments to the radio stations that all faculty at TCU are liberals and do not contribute to the university, and that he wanted to raise money to fight TCU faculty, and that someone needs to say that these are not true statements about the faculty. Another senator made a motion which was seconded to endorsing the AAUP statement about this matter. Sean gave few minutes to read the AAUP statement before the discussion about it started.

<https://aauptcu.wordpress.com/2021/01/29/aaup-response-to-rep-roger-williams/>

After the senators read the AAUP statement the floor was open to discussion. Two senators expressed condemnation to what Roger Williams said about the faculty but said the AAUP statement may be taken politically, so it’s best for the faculty senate to draft their own document to condemn the actions and behaviors. After the discussion which had a lot of different opinions on how to proceed, Sean send a poll to end the debate on this issue which was approved by more than two thirds of votes to end the discussion on this issue. He then proceeded to launch a vote to endorse the AAUP. The motion to endorse the AAUP failed (49% voted not to endorse, 33% voted to endorse, and 18% abstained). Sean explained that now that the motion failed, he will call for a special senate meeting, and the FSEC will craft a special language concerning this issue. At 4:49 pm Sean Atkinson moved to full executive mode and only senators stayed in the session, and he stopped the recording.