**Faculty Senate Minutes (03/04/2021) at 3:30 pm via Zoom**

**Zoom link:** <https://tcu.box.com/s/pn1f03p90kfbc1kjsobfel7hy36gqot1>

**Link to the slides that were shown during the meeting:** <https://tcu.box.com/s/ns6hkzr8x9yjjsqv37u2thp1vc3etpnl>

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

*Senators absent (Excused)*: Lavonne Adams, Emily Herzig, Sage Elwell.

*Senators absent (Unexcused)*: Sohyun Lee, Elva Orozco Mendoza, Mary Waller, Guangyan Chen, Eric Simanek, Marc Neri, Phil Esposito, Michael Sawey, Samantha Bates, Morgan Kiani .

The Faculty Senate Chair Sean Atkinson called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

He asked everyone to have one moment of silence to honor the death of Tracy Thompson. He then announced that there was candle light vigil that night.

The minutes from February session were approved. Sean Atkinson also said that there is faculty senate resolution (GSS support for faculty attached to the email) to keep masks and social distances measures in place even of the Texas as a state officially removed them. This resolution was approved by majority of votes. Then Sean gave the floor to Chancellor Boschini.

Chancellor Boschini, said that there is no intention of removing any of the precautions. Moving on, Sean Atkinson gave the floor to Provost Abi-Nader Dahlberg.

The Provost talked about providing more aid for lower income families. She said that accepted students whose families earn less than 50K will get a full scholarship. This improves access for many students and enables TCU to improve academic profiles. There’s also the Deans’ scholars, the Provost’s scholars and this will enable TCU to increase the number of students who receive those scholarships. When students fill out FASFA, there are some who are barely making it like those in the middle or lower middle class, and this plan will support students in those categories with scholarships. The overarching goal is to reduce student debt. She said that budget reductions are painful, and so it’s important to put them to a worthy cause. She then reminded everyone that TCU needs to go for reaffirmation with SACS every 10 years. Reaffirmation means every unit at the university has a reporting requirement. The Provost then moved on to say that she’s willing to listen to any group, if they wish to meet with her, they can reach out to Sheila Williams to schedule appointments. Then she talked about faculty workloads. She announced that she will be using data they gathered so that by the end of the semester there is a clearer picture. She hopes to compare teaching workload and match any extra load with appropriate compensation. She then mentioned that the Dean’s search for the College of Science and Engineering is going well, and she expects that a new Dean will be hired soon. She then said that she wants to dispel rumors that merited leaves are going away, and that this is not true. As for class searches, the Summer 2021 class search will open March 8, and Fall 2021 will open March 15.

Then Sean Atkinson gave the floor for Cheryl Taylor who talked about the great colleges to work with. She said that there will be 600 participants selected from TCU, and that it’s confidential, so the university will not know who participated. There are a couple of changes that will focus on diversity equity and inclusion. She reminded everyone that TCU will send out the invite and encouraged those who receive the invite to participate.

Next Sean Atkinson gave the floor to Mark Dennis who leads the contemplative studies at TCU. Mark introduced himself, and the group with him, and did a short breathing/relaxing exercise. He then talked about the benefits of contemplative studies and activities. He announced that Tuesday nights at 7 pm and Friday nights at 7:30 pm he co-leads the relaxation/breathing sessions, and that all are welcomed. His group connected with Lisa Bashore to relate what they do with the mental health program, and expand their activities. He encouraged everyone to learn more about mindfulness activities and welcomed anyone who wants to know more to reach out to him or his group.

Sean then gave the floor to Josh Bently who led the ad hoc committee who was worked on a resolution to respond to Roger Williams. Josh Bently said that the resolution focused on restating our fundamental values, and he then read the resolution. Sean opened the floor for discussion. One senator was concerned that this resolution ends up in the same place where we started which condemned the violence to the capitol which means we do not move forward. Josh answered that it’s a useful point to reiterate. Some wanted to remove the last statement and some wanted to keep it. Someone offered to move the last sentence to another place. After the discussion, there was a vote on the resolution with the minor amendment and it passed by the majority.

Moving on, Sean gave the floor to Andrew Ledbetter who talked about the resolution from the Faculty Relations Committee. Andrew said that it comes from the charge to explore the impact of COVID on the faculty. They found as a committee that COVID has an impact that is more than an impact on research. TCU asked faculty to shift work towards teaching, and so it’s equitable to take that into account. One size fits all is not equitable, so the FRC committee recommends that departments should have letters explaining the situation for external reviewers. Sean then opened the floor for discussion. There was one question about how this resolution will be supported to which Andrew answered that this may require another resolution. Andrew said that the senate’s function is advisory, and this is a good advice to give. Then the resolution went for a vote and it passed by the majority, and Sean said that he will send it the Chairs, Deans, and Provost.

Sean then gave the floor to another ad hoc committee who was exploring an award for Beto Cruz. Amy Stewart presented the work the committee did. She said that the plan is to give a monetary award to Beto Cruz’s family this year, and later raise money for an award to honor members of staff working behind the scenes. She said that there still needs to be research on who qualifies. She also talked about exploring the idea of having an art like a metal art tree with leaves on it in memory of Beto Cruz.

After that Sean gave the floor to Pam Frable who called for faculty senate officer nominations. She said she will send an email to the senators for those jobs, and that one can self-nominate or nominate others. She also said that next month she will ask for additional nominations and there will be a vote at the end. Danyelle Ackall also mentioned that the governance committee is working on a new senator orientation agenda, job duties of senators, and expectations of senators and for the new senators to learn more about this job. She will ask all senators to share advice that would be useful for new senators. She will send an email to committee chairs to share how their committee work. She expects to have this done before the next school year starts.

After that, Sean reminded everyone that in April he is invited to present to the full board of trustees, so if anyone had any suggestion to send it his way. At 5 pm Sean Atkinson adjourned the meeting.