**Faculty Senate Minutes (03/02/2023) at 3:30 via zoom (due to inclement weather)**

*Senators present*: Danyelle Ackall, Taryn Allen, Sarah Angle, Sean Atkinson, Layne Bradley, Ellen Broom, Leslie Browning-Samoni, Ashley Coles, Brian Clinnin, Michael Butler, Oteka Jackon-Cenales, Layn Craig, Molli Crenshaw, Patricia Duncan, Kathryn Ellis, Phil Esposito, Greg Friedman, Julie Fry, Peter Frinchaboy, Sophia Garcia, Dustin Hahn, Jill Havens, Tracy Hicks, Hanan Hammad, Hayat Hokayem, Hadi Hosainy, Omar Harvey, Emily Herzig, Clark Jones, San-ky Kim, Morgan Kiani, Laurel Lynch, Lydia Mackay, Brandon Manning, Kelly McCormick, Adam King,Till Meyn, Vassil Mihov, Thomas Moeller, Marc Neri, Kimberly Owczarski, Kim Posey, Jan Quesada, Janie Robinson, Twyla Robinson, James Rodriguez, David Sandell, Michael Sawey, Chris Sawyer, Rebecca Sharpless, Loren Spice, Daxton Stewart, Matt Switzer, Sriram Thirumalai, Corey Trahan, Jeff Todd, Kelly Trager, Derek Tolmin, , Daniel Williams, Bingyan Wei, Mat Wenzel, Danielle Walker, Barbara Wood, Robyn Ward, Quinghua Yang, Jessica Zeller.

*Senators absent (Excused)*: Pam Frable, Cliff Defee, Alex Lemon, Jennifer Engler.

*Senators absent (Unexcused)*: Sohyun Lee, Mark Willis, Michael Skinner, Xiaolu Zhou.

Dr. Jill Havens, the Chair of the Faculty Senate (FS), called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. She offered a moment of silence for our colleague Dr. David Bedford who passed away on February 21st. Then she updated everyone on President Pullin’s visit to the FS on April 27, and encouraged everyone to prepare questions and send them to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee by April 12, and she congratulated Dr. Hanan Hammad as the newly appointed Chair for the Women and Gender Studies Department. Then she gave the floor to President Pullin who thanked everyone for welcoming him in his position, and expressed his eagerness to accept invitations for events at various colleges across campus.

Then Jill gave the floor to Provost Dahlberg who reminded everyone of the SACS COC accreditation visit March 6 through 9. She also reminded everyone that the Chairs Council is now called the Academic Chair and Directors Council, and that they will have a professional development "Academy" on May 16 & 17. *(See attached Provost Slides)*.

Jill then gave the floor to the Chair of the Academic Excellence Committee, Dr. Layne Craig, who welcomed the Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Flyod Wormley, and asked him the questions that the AEC gathered from faculty, which were organized into three general categories:

1. What are the specific benchmarks you’re looking at to achieve R2 + status? In pursuit of R2+, are there plans, for instance, to expand the capacity of the Office of Sponsored Programs to support faculty research? What do you need from faculty to ensure our current work is being counted toward any benchmarks?

*Dr. Wormley’s answer*: Based on current projection, TCU meets the research expenditures and the number of doctoral students for an R2. Historically TCU was on the edge of 5 to 8 million dollars in research expenditures. Since the biggest benchmark for R2 is research expenditures, his office has been trying to seed funds for faculty to collect data and develop competitive research grants. His office has tried to provide funds for an external reviewer to read the grants. They are also increasing office hours to support faculty. Moreover, they started returning some money back to the colleges for those who get external grants. The research office on campus will hire two new positions to support research, and bring more doctoral students to serve as research assistants. He acknowledged that there is shortage of staff, but was confident that they will be able to educate staff over a period of one to two years.

1. What plans do you have for increasing the size and quality of our grad programs?

*Dr. Wormley’s Answer:* The main responsibility to increase the size of graduate programs lies in the colleges because the office of graduate studies does not bestow degrees. His office has developed new graduate programs and made sure they are sustainable and match the institution’s vision. He said that TCU’s goal is always for graduate students to enhance the academic program. He encouraged faculty to provide the appropriate curriculum for graduate students so that they can graduate and get jobs. It’s easier for example to support graduate programs in STEM fields because there’s more external research money, but this may not be possible in other fields. He said that it costs from 24 to 28 thousand dollars yearly for each graduate student in stipends to have programs, the cost needs to be taken into consideration in addition to the presence of appropriate infrastructure which not every program can support. So far, the focus is on the currently enrolled graduate students, so that TCU can support them to graduate and get the jobs that they want to get rather than the jobs that they just find. Once the graduate programs are solid and sustainable, then they can think of growing their programs.

1. Strengthening TCU’s academic profile and reputation requires recruiting research faculty, but TCU has higher teaching loads and less research support than other universities with whom we compete for job applicants focused on research. What are we doing to attract research faculty and ensure that our existing faculty have time and resources to produce research?

*Dr. Wormley’s Answer*: He said that they are trying to expand support for newly hired research faculty, and to support existing faculty who are productive in research. Incrementally over time there will have to be more support for those people. Some of the Senators expressed concern that the load is being put on faculty to do more, and that some are submitting grants with other institutions because it’s easier to deal with that. He answered that even those who submit grants with other institutions, the money still reaches TCU to which someone responded that it's a smaller portion of money. He acknowledged the struggle especially that other institutions have more established infrastructures.

Following Dr. Wormley’s discussion, Jill gave the floor to David Allen, the Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, who was joined by Brianna Edwards, the new director of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). He presented a summary of what will happen on March 6th through the 9th for the onsite visit. He said that TCU submitted the compliance report, there are individuals visiting campus who will look at the different standards. There will be faculty/staff interviews, and individuals have been identified for interviews, and they will discuss the QEP. Brianna then presented about the different tenants about the QEP theme: “Finding Ourselves in the Community”: a) help students achieve greater social awareness, b) support faculty and c) assess the learning outcomes. There will be 5 years to carry out the plan. There was a question about DEI initiatives, to which she said that they will assess students' needs and work accordingly. She encouraged everyone who wants to learn more about the QEP to visit [**https://provost.tcu.edu/sacscoc/qep/**](https://provost.tcu.edu/sacscoc/qep/)

Then Jill gave the floor to the Chair of the Governance Committee (GC), Dr. Marc Neri, who announced that as a result of Dr. Daxton Stewart stepping down from Senate Chair for the year 2023-2024, the GC ran elections and Dr. Omar Harvey was elected as the Senate Chair-Elect to finish the current term in 2023 and then be Chair for 2023-2024. (48 voting yes, 2 voting no, and 4 abstaining). He then summarized the changes to the FS Constitution and Bylaws. Then there was a vote for passing the changes. The changes passed with 42 voting yes, 0 voting no, and 5 abstaining. The changes passed and they will go to the Faculty Assembly for a final vote.

Then Jill gave the floor to the Chair of Evaluation Excellence Committee, Dr. Sophia Garcia who said that the EEC is considering changing the name of the committee to reflect the scope of charges, and someone suggested the name to be Committee for Instructional Advancement. She said that she will keep everyone informed of this.

At 5 pm. Dr. Jill Havens adjourned the meeting.