

Faculty Senate Minutes (09/07/2023) in person and via zoom

Senators present: Danyelle Ackall, Sarah Angle, Taryn Allen, Kat Barger, Stephen Boakye, Richard Bond, Ellen Broom, Leslie Browning-Samoni, Michael Buckman, Brian Clinnin, Molli Crenshaw, Tristan Decker, Phil Esposito, Michael Fagella-Luby, Pamela Frable, Greg Friedman, Julie Fry, Richard Galvin, Sue Gong, Eric Gonzales, Omar Harvey, Jill Havens, Emily Herzig, Tracy Hicks, Hayat Hokayem, Hadi Hosainy, Jessica Humphrey, Debi Iba, Lynn Jackson, Oteka Jackson-Cenales, Stephanie Jevas, Clark Jones, Patricia Jordan, San-ky Kim, Adam King, Ian Loveall, Laurel Lynch, Elisa Marroquin, Kelly McCormick, Vassil Mihov, Thomas Moeller, Marc Neri, Kimberly Owczarski, Santiago Pinon, Kim Posey, Jan Quesada, Shuv Raj, Rana Bhat, James Rodriguez, David Sandell, Chris Sawyer, Krista Scott, Meena Shah, Rebecca Sharpless, Michael Skinner, Loren Spice, Matt Switzer, Jeff Todd, Derek Tomlin, Kelly Trager, Danielle Walker, Robyn Ward, Wei Bingyang, Mat Wenzel, Daniel Williams, Barbara Wood, Qinghua Yang, Brae Young, Xiaolu Zhou.

Senators absent (Excused): Brandon Manning.

Senators absent (Unexcused): Antonio Banos, Ashok Bhusal, Layne Bradley, Guy Golan, Alex Lemon, Peter Obitade, Janie Robinson, Sriram Thirumalai, Corey Trahan, Laurie Wood, Ying-Wen Yu.

The Chair of the Faculty Senate (FS), Dr. Omar Harvey, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. He started with the land acknowledgement, and then gave the floor to President Daniel Pullin who thanked everyone for their work and said that he enjoyed visiting different campus constituents and learning about their work. He announced that TCU was voted third for media and social media communication. He also praised the faculty for the resilience and support they showed after the tragic death of one the TCU students, Wes Smith.

Then Omar gave the floor to Provost Dahlberg who also thanked the faculty for their support of Wes Smith's friends. She then said that Dr. Harvey met with her weekly over the whole summer and talked to her about several of the faculty's issues and concerns. As a result, one of her goals for this year was to increase communication, so she's organizing several coffee meetings with her so any faculty can join in. She then announced that Elaine Cole took on the task of transferring the Faculty Handbook to its new online format. Then a group of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee examined it to make sure the online copy matched the pdf copy. The online version was posted; the website to find the online faculty handbook is <https://provost.tcu.edu/faculty-resources/handbook/>. One senator asked if the pdf could also be there because many use the pdf version and she agreed. Then she informed the audience that TCU's enrollment is very healthy which is good news for the financial stability of the university. She then addressed the concerns of the closure of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion after the state restricted DEI in public universities. She said that TCU is a private university and is not obliged to close DEI so there will be no closure. However, it's important to make TCU a smaller target for the media and be careful of media attacks against us. She said that TCU has a holistic admission process and that admissions committee counsel cannot see the identity of the students.

She met with admissions and Dr. Harvey and decided that Dr. Harvey will work to create an ad-hoc committee to help augment recruitment and yielding. She then noted that we're in an election year so we should be prepared for how to handle the media and have a strategy when to speak and when to be silent. She's working on having more TCU community being exposed to how the media works. She ended by reminding everyone of the Provost's website (www.provost.tcu.edu) for obtaining news coming from her or her office and encouraged everyone to communicate with her directly if they want to know about anything that is vague or surprising to them.

Next, Omar gave the floor to the co-chair of communication and marketing, Ann Davis who reminded everyone of the 150th TCU anniversary celebrations which will end in a grand finale and fireworks on October 13 in the TCU Commons. She also said that there will be two murals designed by TCU alumni of fine arts that represent TCU's spirit, one of which will be displayed in downtown Fort Worth.

Then Omar gave the floor to the President of the Graduate Student Senate, Annie Cowden who expressed her excitement to have strong relations with the FS. Then he gave the floor to the President of the Student Government Association, Joe Winnik who thanked everyone for their work and showed willingness to work with the FS. Then he gave the floor to social science librarian, Robyn Reid who also expressed her enthusiasm to partner with the FS on any issues.

Then he gave the floor to the Director of Counseling Center, Dr. Eric Wood who informed everyone of the counseling services they provide and how they partner with the community. He said that they partnered with treatment centers in Fort Worth and asked them if they can have programs on campus, and this was a successful partnership which provides a lot of services to TCU students. Those programs are not covered by tuition, but they found other grants to cover the cost. There are many students who come and hang out in the counseling center which he was proud of because it is something rare and means that students like the center. He emphasized that faculty should encourage students to go to the counseling center because 85% of students whom they see reach the center because someone asked or pushed them to go. He said that they are located at the second floor of Jarvis Hall.

Then Omar introduced the faculty feature which he said is a response to some faculty expression not feeling that their work is being appreciated. He said that the FS will allocate some time each session to learn about one faculty's work. He gave the floor to Dr. Fredrik Gooding Jr. who talked about his book "A History to Remember: TCU in Purple White and Black". Dr. Gooding said that he used an African American lens to study TCU's history. He thanked everyone who supported him to publish the book and invited everyone for a presentation at the Kelly Center on September 20, 2023, at 7 pm.

Then at 4:42 pm, Dr. Omar Harvey moved the session to a closed session, and at 5 pm he adjourned the meeting.