

Faculty Senate Minutes (12/07/2023) in person only.

Senators present: Danyelle Ackall, Kat Barger, Stephen Boakye, Richard Bond, Ellen Broom, Layne Bradely, Leslie Browning-Samoni, Brian Clinnin, Tristan Decker, Phil Esposito, Michael Fagella-Luby, Pamela Frable, Greg Friedman, Julie Fry, Richard Galvin, Guy Golan, 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, Adam King, Ian Loveall, Laurel Lynch, 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, Rebecca Sharpless, Michael Skinner, Loren Spice, Chip Stewart, Matt Switzer, Jeff Todd, Derek Tomlin, Corey Trahan, Kelly Trager, Danielle Walker, Robyn Ward, Daniel Williams, Brae Young.

Senators absent (Excused): Michael Buckhman, Thomas Moeller, Qinghua Yang, Laurie Wood, Meena Shah, Chris Sawyer.

Senators absent (Unexcused): Sarah Angle, Antonio Banos, Ashok Bhusal, Molli Crenshaw, Sanky Kim, Alex Lemon, Elisa Marroquin, Peter Obitade, Janie Robinson, Wei Bingyang, Xiaolu Zhou, Ying-Wen Yu, Sriram Thirumalai, Derek Tomlin, Corey Trahan, Kelly Trager.

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. Then he gave the floor to chair of the Governance Committee, Dr. Marc Neri who said that Tracy Hicks is leaving TCU and so the Information Officer seat in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is vacant, and he encouraged senators to run for that seat. Omar, then, gave the floor to Clark Jones who announced the opportunity for one senator to join the Quality Enhancement Plan Implementation committee. Then Omar gave the floor to Dan Williams who encouraged all to donate for the Beto Cruz Award. Then James Rodriguez talked about the outward-inclusion training that will be funded by the Provost's office and said that he will send out more information once a date is locked. Then Omar reminded everyone of the vote that passed in the previous session to change the name of the Educational Evaluation Committee to the Instructional Support and Evaluation Committee. Then Omar gave the floor to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Communication, Merianne Roth. She said that she and her team communicate TCU's work and achievement through the various TCU media outlets but primarily TCU

magazine. They also work to elevate the national profile of TCU through the various academic stories they communicate to the public. TCU Today and TCU social media communicate TCU's successes, and TCU has a strong social media presence. She explained that her office also deals with any hacking that happens with any TCU employee's accounts. She encouraged anyone who is being threatened on social media to contact her office, and they will help to protect the individual. She then said that there are people who make a living from targeting academics or academic institutions. TCU has been a large target and one of her colleagues put a training deck on doxing. She gave an example of a fake account in the summer who threatened President Pullin and another faculty member by saying that they are going to "kick their butt", and her team reported that to Instagram as a threat. She said that they can monitor personal accounts if someone reaches out to them with this request. She also said that in some universities if someone has been harassed for some university content on social media, they take it out from any university social media because of the high risk, but TCU does not automatically do that. She advised people to do anything they can to feel safe, like going invisible for a few weeks until any problem subsides, and she encouraged everyone to reach out to her office because they can and will certainly help with that. The job of her office is to contain, secure and preserve the safety of university employees from any social media attacks. They don't generally interfere when there is healthy debate, but when there is a problem, they advise to slow down on replying to comments because any extra reply results in a spike of harassment. There was a question about when a certain polarizing issue is addressed by faculty, like black lives matter or LGBTQ+ issues where faculty want to voice their concerns; but if her office recommends removing those opinions, it defeats the purpose. Her answer was that there is no easy answer as some universities do not allow any political material while others do. Her office gives advice to individuals based on each case, but if anyone is physically threatened, he or she can call the police. She reported that death threats against TCU employees are rare, and the last time they received a death threat was five years ago when someone threatened the Chancellor, but they have not received any death threats recently. She ended by encouraging anyone with social media concerns to contact her office and they will professionally support them.

Then Omar moved the meeting to closed session.