

Faculty Senate Minutes (03/07/2023) .

Senators present: Danyelle Ackall, Sarah Angle, Kat Barger, Rana Bhat, Ashok Bhusal, Stephen Boakye, Antonio Banos, Richard Bond, Ellen Broom, Layne Bradely, Leslie Browning-Samoni, Brian Clinnin, Molli Crenshaw, Tristan Decker, Phil Esposito, Michael Fagella-Luby, Pamela Frable, Greg Friedman, Julie Fry, Richard Galvin, Guy Golan, Eric Gonzales, Alfred Gwendolyn, Omar Harvey, Jill Havens, Emily Herzig, 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, Peter Obitade, Kimberly Owczarski, Esther Paik, Santiago Pinon, Kim Posey, Jan Quesada, Shuv Raj, Janie Robinson, 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, Laurie Wood, Daniel Williams, Brae Young.

Senators absent (Excused):

Senators absent (Unexcused): Alex Lemon, Sue Gong, Wei Bingyang, Xiaolu Zhou, Ying-Wen Yu, Sriram Thirumalai.

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. Omar announced the faculty/staff town hall meeting with President Pullin in the library on Thursday April 4 at 12:30 pm and encouraged all to attend. Then he gave the floor to Senator Dan Williams who encouraged all to donate for the Beto Cruz award. Then Senator Marc Neri encouraged senator nominations for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) officers. Senator Lynn Jackson encouraged all to fill in the survey concerning the test accommodating services. She said that her committee will use this data to support the idea of having more space to accommodate everyone. Then Omar made the announcement that the biology department went on to hire the faculty they wanted and that the issue of shared governance was handled by the Academic Excellence Committee who delivered a letter to President Pullin concerning the hiring of the new Provost next year.

Then Omar gave the floor to Interim Provost Wormley who laid out his vision about TCU. He said that he is focusing on student academic success. So far, 85% of undergraduate students graduate within 6 years and he would like to push that percentage to 90%. There is a committee that is working to achieve this goal, so there is a dashboard to identify student faculty ratio, and any course roadblocks that exist. There will be measures taken to remove those roadblocks. Moreover,

he's also focusing on the graduate students and their needs, especially to create more opportunities and links to internships and employers. He also said he's looking into the recommendations from the Tenure and Promotion (T&P) committee, and the work load equity model which is currently piloted in various units. He emphasized that his main priorities are student success and academic excellence and said that right now there is financial assistance for graduate students for 5 years and if a student needs more years, it is recommended to cover that through external grants that faculty bring.

Then Omar gave the floor to Dr. Theresa Gaul who talked about the proposed changes to the core curriculum. The proposed changes are a) reorganize the requirement of the core curriculum to align under the four year institution level competencies, b) adjust the vetting process and how a course counts for students c) center diversity equity and inclusion in the outcomes of cultural awareness, global awareness, citizenship and social values, d) create a process which allows for finding ourselves in community courses to simultaneously be approved for cultural awareness if the faculty wish, e) Eliminate the two prefix rule in natural sciences , f) allow transfer and exam credit equivalencies for Cultural Awareness, Global Awareness, and Citizenship and Social Values, g) change the wording of student learning outcomes for each of the 14 areas of core requirements. The changes will be voted on in the next April meeting and the implementation will take one to two years depending on the changes made. There was a question raising a concern about transferring credits from other institutions and the fact that it will diminish the value of the degree to which she answered that she's not trying to push through anything the faculty does not want and this was raised through the feedback they received and that they are still working on it.

Then Omar gave the floor to Dean Christopher Watts and Dr. Krista Scott who reported on their work on the ad-hoc committee formed by Provost Dahlberg in 2021 to review the process and make recommendations for the Tenure and Promotion (T&P) policy. After reviewing the policy, they generated recommendation to make the policy clearer and better understood but not to change it. The main recommendations are: a) having only one evaluation committee in the college rather than three and this committee consists of six qualified faculty for evaluating the candidate, b) candidates are provided with written recommendations at the first level of evaluation so that if someone disagrees with the decision, they can supply a written response that goes up the chain, c) recommend 8 faculty representing one from each college except the school of medicine for the university committee evaluation. For any appeals, the Provost makes the decision as whether the

T&P request will be supported and moved up to the Chancellor. If there is an appeal at the level of the Provost, there will be a hearing committee consisting of 5 faculty, one selected by appellant, one by the Dean and 3 by the FSEC, d) for the question if someone can serve on the college and the university evaluations, the committee recommended to allow this with the understanding that when there is a discussion at the unit, that they can be part of the discussion but not giving a vote, e) Another big change is to create a new calendar that doesn't depend on the annual calendar. The committee made a calendar that works regardless of the year. f) For the probationary period, in the committee's recommendation, this remains at 6 years. It is recommended that any years of credit are negotiated and stated in writing at the time of hire, g) Requests to go up for tenure early are allowable but the Dean and Chair need to approve in writing. In the event tenure is not awarded early, then the person is given a one-year terminal contract, h) accelerated tenure review will go through all the review process but in an expedited manner and off cycle the normal time.

At 5 pm, Dr. Harvey, adjourned the meeting.