

Faculty Senate Minutes (04/04/2024) .

Senators present: Sarah Angle, Kat Barger, Rana Bhat, Ashok Bhusal, Stephen Boakye, Antonio Banos, Richard Bond, Ellen Broom, Layne Bradley, 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, Alex Lemon, 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): Danyelle Ackall, Sue Gong

Senators absent (Unexcused): 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. Then he gave the floor to the Dr. Theresa Gaul who said that she was ready to answer questions about the six changes of the core curriculum that had been presented to the faculty senate earlier. There was a concern about change six which allowed the transfer of equivalent courses. The argument was that this can be detrimental to the acceptable standards by TCU. She replied that the change was not made to change any policies, but to allow flexibility for students who had the necessary standards to progress academically.

Then Omar gave the floor to Dr. Danielle Walker who talked about the resolution of not assigning due assignments during university breaks only. Then she talked about the resolution of the digital syllabi. Omar then said that those resolutions will be voted on digitally in the coming week. Then Omar gave the floor to Dr. Loren Spice and Dr. Lynn Jackson who emphasized the need for a centralized testing center and encouraged everyone to fill out the surveys that were being sent bi-weekly. This allows the Academic Excellence Committee to gather informative data about this.

Then Omar gave the floor to President Daniel Pullin who informed everyone that there is a new strategic plan and encouraged everyone to contribute their ideas through the online system. He said that TCU reached a record level of fund-raising tapping one billion dollars. He also said that

there will be another tuition increase which will allow merit adjustments in the future. He explained that even though there is a tuition increase, financial aid will also increase, so the average student for example pays half the sticker price. TCU now is very competitive with 30% people of color. The Board of Trustees (BoT) took a whole day to collectively think and ask broad questions relevant for TCU and there were four broad themes: campus growth, athletics, research, and community engagement. The BoT would like to see a strategic plan around those four ideas and so the President is now structuring this process to involve everyone's input in TCU and its community. As of yesterday, 3000 community members submitted their ideas to the online survey and he is enthusiastic with how the process is moving. After gathering input, a specialized committee including faculty from most colleges and other university constituents will design the plan in the summer. Then, the President informed the senate of the search for a new position of an innovation officer who will join the university cabinet. This officer will help adjust the strategic plan, identify any shortcomings and find creative solutions for any issues. There is currently a rich pool of 70 applicants. He also said that TCU is one of the six universities with a small private school feel with access to big sports in a cool town. The other five are USC, Northwestern, Miami Florida, Vanderbilt, and Boston College, so TCU is the only one in Texas that has those characteristics; therefore, it's important to build on that to provide the best experiences for the students. Also, since Texas A&M, a research one university, is coming to town, it's important that TCU is competitive and that research is enhanced.

At 5:15 pm Dr. Omar Harvey adjourned the meeting.