

TEXAS COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATES
BUSINESS MEETING
October 21, 2006
Minutes

David Weissenburger, President, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Those present were Executive Committee members and representatives from seventeen campuses.

The minutes of the February 18, 2006 Business Meeting were not available due to Sharon Grimm's hospitalization. A motion was made and approved to table the minutes.

Reports of Officers

Mavis Triebel, East Region VP, called for nominations for a Vice President of the North East Region. Peggy Landrum of Texas Woman's University was nominated for and voted Northeast Region VP. Triebel also announced that the council is accepting nominations for vice presidents of the East Region and the South Central Region to be elected in the Spring meeting to be held February 16-17, 2007. Triebel asked the membership to send nominations to her.

Triebel conveyed concern about security of computer systems in all offices and whether or not universities are protecting faculty. Triebel reported that members of the East Region expressed no opposition to criminal checks of faculty, and concerns that faculty may not be aware of how such checks will work in the future. Representatives from her region suggested that a topic for the February meeting could be to have an attorney explain how such ethics hotlines work in other states.

Peggy Landrum, Northeast Region VP, reported concern about email privacy. Thomas Fields commented that when faculty work on university computers, they delegate the rights to the work to the university. Landrum suggested that the implications of blogs could be a topic for the next meeting, and Doug Slack commented that some universities are checking faculty use of systems such as My Space.

Alba Ortiz, South Central Region VP, presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that there were no budget issues although the report was incomplete due to Grimm's illness. In a motion by Murray Leaf that was seconded by Jesus Tafoya, the report was approved and a vote passed unanimously.

Ortiz reported that members from the South Central Region expressed interest in addressing the following: the issue of legitimate boundaries for institutional monitoring of personal versus academic computer-use, that TCFS should orient new people more effectively given the annual turnover of senate officers, that communication could be improved using a consistently updated list serve and website, and that issues arising in the round-up reports be considered as topics for future meetings.

Sarah Moreman, West Region VP, reported that she would contact institutions in the western region that have not attended the TCFS meeting recently, and that she would

attempt to maintain more effective communication between the faculty senates in the western region. Doug Slack suggested putting Lynn Tatum's report on academic freedom on the TCFS website. A topic that some in her region would like to explore would focus on how faculty might gain some voice in the SACS reaffirmation process. There was some discussion of the SACS process, that a SACS for Dummies had been produced for one institution, that faculty should be aware of the politics of the process and refuse to go along with administrative pretense that QEPs are their idea, that faculty must take the initiative to stop legislative push to make higher education like K-12 as House Bill 1 threatens to do.

New Business

David Weissenburger introduced two Executive Committee recommendations. The first recommendation is for revising the constitution and Bylaws-Article XI because there is no mechanism for the problem of succession. Leaf seconded the Executive Committee's motion to reword the by-laws, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Weissenburger introduced the Executive Committee's recommendation of a resolution in honor of Dr. Sterling Smith. Weissenburger read the resolution, and a motion by Triebel and seconded by Leaf that the resolution be adopted was approved unanimously.

In other business, Murray Leaf reported on his survey of governance organizations, noted that he will present a report of it at the Spring 2007 meeting, and asked faculty to send him a description of governance at their institutions.

A second item of other business was Thomas Fields' request that the TCFS recognize the new TAMU-K faculty senate. There was some discussion about how TCFS would respond to the new senate.

The Spring meeting dates of February 16-17, 2007 were announced.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Sarah Moreman
East Region VP