

Fall 2023 TCFS Meeting Minutes
Brooks Embassy Suites, San Antonio, TX
September 30, 2023

In attendance: The Executive Board members

Dr. Joseph Velasco, President
Dr. Wynne Chin, Past President and Incoming Treasurer
Mr. James Woosley, President Emeritus
Dr. Tabitha Morton, Vice President, East Region
Dr. Ludovic A. Sourdout, Co-Vice President, Northeast Region
Dr. Jackie Fay, Co-Vice President, Northeast Region
Dr. Kip Austin Hinton, South Central Region
Dr. Derek Catsam, Vice President, West Region

General meeting attendees: conference, September 29-30, 2023:

Universities Represented: 28

Regions Represented:

East: 16

Northeast: 17

South Central: 13

West: 6

AAUP Representatives: 15

TAFT Representatives 1

NAACP Representatives 2

Total Attendees: 70

President Joseph Velasco called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

There were enough TCFS members in attendance to constitute a quorum.

Discussion of Roundup Reports

Dr. Velasco opened the meeting with discussion of the Roundup Reports.

Motion from Ravi Prakash (UT-Dallas): To remove Artificial Intelligence as a theme due to lack of repetition in the Roundup Reports.

Motion seconded by Andy Milson (UT-Austin).

Motion passed.

Motion from Holly Love (U of Houston): To add AI as an item of interest.

Motion seconded by Amy Petros (UNT)

Motion passed.

A signup sheet for an ad hoc Committee on AI was circulated to gather interest in studying the topic in how it relates to the TCFS mission.

Final Roundup Report themes included:

1. Challenge of Developing Policies in Response to SB 18
2. Challenge of Compliance with SB 17
3. Concern about DEI Policy Over-compliance
4. Concern about Salary and Workload Across Campuses
5. Concern about Top-down Academic Reorganization
6. Trend in Administrative Turnover
7. Need for Training on the Role of Faculty in Shared Governance

Helpful Resources:

- 1) [AAUP website](#)
- 2) [TACT](#)

Approval of Prior Business Meeting Minutes

President Velasco (Associate Professor of Communication, Sul Ross University, Alpine) asked for a motion from the floor to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2023, meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes by Andy Milson (UT-Austin)

Motion seconded by Jim Woosley (Texas A&M-College Station)

The minutes were approved by show of hands with ten members abstaining due to not attending the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wynne Chin (Professor of Decision and Information Sciences, University of Houston) presented the treasurer's report. Dr. Chin announced that the transition from the former Treasurer, Dr. Alba Ortiz (UT-Austin) to him is now complete and that he has full access to the Bank of America TCFS accounts. Dr. Chin said that his report is based off a timeframe spanning September of last year to the end of August this year. breakdown of expenses to report but they were likely like those in the past, which included combined expenses for the two annual conferences and the secretary's salary that totaled approximately \$22,076. This exceeds the projected amount by about \$2000. Rising hotel costs explain the difference. We expended two secretary salaries during the February transition from Keri Sourdout to Debbie Roberts. Dr. Chin reported that the current account balance in the checking account is \$36,082.67 and the savings account balance is \$23,035.87, bringing the net worth of TCFS to \$49,126.88.

Because the budget cycle begins on September 1st, the current report contains projections for the year.

We paid Bluehost, our website host, \$370.14 for a three-year contract. We may decide to change website host providers.

We will continue to seek financial partnerships with the system chancellors to bolster the work we do.

Professor Woosley then **moved** to have the treasurers report approved, which was **seconded** by Dr. Bill Hefley. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Old Business

William Cherry (UNT) announced that he would revive efforts to form a task force on academic professional track faculty. This was a group that formed at the Fall 2022 meeting. For various reasons, they did not accomplish their goals. They are seeking new members, particularly from the Texas A&M University System. Members were encouraged to meet with William after the business meeting to further discuss this task force and continuing its work.

New Business

President Velasco updated members on the status of the website that is currently being hosted by Bluehost. There is a need to revisit the Bluehost contract to explore the best value for TCFS.

The Spring 2024 meeting will be at the San Antonio Brooks location. In keeping with past conversations, we will seek to host our meetings in Austin during legislative sessions. Currently, the partnership with the San Antonio Brooks Embassy Suites is generating positive feedback from members in our surveys.

Ludovic Sourdout (Texas Woman's University/Northeast Co-VP) informed the group of Governor Abbott's intentions to introduce a special legislative session soon. School vouchers and higher education items may be on his agenda.

William Cherry (UNT) offered that the Task Force on Academic Professional Track Faculty could play a role in sending out a survey to study items relevant to the legislative session.

Announcements

The Texas Conference of the AAUP is meeting in the adjacent ballroom. AAUP members are welcome to join that meeting after we adjourn.

Upcoming elections in the Spring 2024 meeting: 1) **President-elect**, 2) **Northeast Region VP**, and 3) **West Region VP**. To bolster volunteers, President Velasco discussed the responsibilities of these offices as described in the TCFS Constitution and informed the group of the typical workload involved over the course of a year.

Adjournment

President Velasco adjourned the meeting at 10:26 am.