May 4, 2006

To: Andy Fort, Chair  
    Faculty Senate, 2005-2006

From: Nadia Lahutsky, Chair  
    Senate Faculty Governance Committee

The FGC had as its primary charge to revise the language of the Bylaws, II.2 on membership and elections. A lot of discussions have been held over the last 3 years or so. This is not to say the job was easy, but rather that we completed it by building on what had been done before. This motion given below was passed at the February Senate meeting and represents the bulk of the FGC work for the year.

One additional charge FGC had was to consider ways to link the TCUCC Director and the Honors Program Director to the Faculty Senate. I regret to say that we had no more energy to devote to that charge and we wish next year’s FGC well in considering it.

**Motion:**

The Faculty Governance Committee has in its first charge to continue the work of several previous FGC’s and “Review and revise Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate bylaws.” We had a lengthy and productive discussion at the Oct. 27, 2005 Senate meeting focused mostly on two issues: at-large positions and the size of the Senate. This discussion was followed up with an email from the Chair of the FGC inviting all Senators to share their views. Twenty-five responses were received. Based on what we learned in the discussion and from the responses, the FGC brings to the Senate a motion that includes the proposed revisions to Bylaws II.2. This revision consists of: 1) a new method of determining membership, 2) the support procedures to implement this new method, and 3) a simplification of the section 2 language.

************  Start of Bylaws change  ************

Section 2. Memberships and Elections

A. Membership

The Faculty Senate shall consist of members representing the academic units of TCU: AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, M. J. Neeley School of Business, College of Communication, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Science and Engineering. Each academic unit shall be allocated one Senator for every nine full-time faculty in the unit. An additional seat will be allocated for 5 or more full-time faculty beyond multiples of nine.

B. Term of Office and Elections
1. The Faculty Election Committee (Constitution II.2.D) shall have the following duties:
   a. determine who is eligible to vote for and to serve on the Faculty Senate;
   b. oversee the election process;
   c. determine, every three years, the apportionment of Senators to colleges based on
      the official faculty list received from the Office of the Provost;
   d. monitor attendance of Senators at meetings and take corrective action regarding
      absences if necessary;
   e. appoint Senators for academic units unable to fill their allocated seats or which
      have Senators who have resigned. The appointee must have been a candidate in a
      recent election but may be from any academic unit. The Faculty Election
      Committee shall strive to maintain proportional distribution among academic units.

2. The term of office of elected senators shall be three years; appointed Senators shall
   complete the term to which they were appointed.

3. The elections shall proceed as follows:
   a. By the seventh week of Spring Semester, the Faculty Election Committee shall
      contact by email all eligible faculty requesting their response concerning
      willingness to serve on the Senate.
   b. By the ninth week, a list of candidates for each academic unit shall be created from
      all the names of that unit’s willing faculty. Voting instructions shall specify that a
      valid ballot will contain votes up to the number of open positions in the unit.
   c. The Faculty Election Committee shall resolve any inconclusive election in an
      academic unit by conducting a second election. The ballot shall consist of at least
      one more candidate than the number of seats to be filled. These candidates shall be
      those who previously received the most votes. Any inconclusive results of a
      second election shall be resolved by the Faculty Election Committee.
   d. Election results shall be announced to the faculty by the twelfth week of the
      Semester.

********** End of Bylaws change **********

To ensure an orderly transition from the current Bylaws to the proposed ones, the
following additional steps should be enacted:

1. Those senators currently in office will finish out their terms.
2. The revised Bylaws will be used as the governing document of the Senate for the
   purpose of elections in Spring 2007, while the 2006-2007 Faculty Governance
   Committee works to bring the Constitution (II.2.A.2) in line with the Bylaws and
   have the new material printed in the official Handbook for Faculty and Staff.
3. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall review the effectiveness of the
   revised Bylaws in three years.
4. The three-year cycle of the apportionment process shall begin in 2007.

Feb. 14, 2006