

Academic Excellence Committee
Recommendation Highlights
Academic Year 2003-2004

David Cross, Lori Diel, Rob Garnett, George Gilbert (Chair),
Linda Moore, Ranga Ramasesh, Jeffrey Todd

- Students need to arrive at TCU expecting a demanding academic experience. In particular, admissions materials and presentations should *always* highlight academics.
- In the critical first few weeks of a student's first year at TCU, focus on building a student sense of community and avoid creating competitive dynamics that divide and isolate students from one another. In particular, defer Rush for fraternities and sororities to the spring semester.
- Promote active student learning experiences. In particular, encourage freshman enrollment in small classes, including freshman seminars. In particular, develop more hands-on student learning experiences such as undergraduate research, seminars, field experiences, service-based learning, and special lectures.
- Provide greater support for research and creative activity. In particular, provide additional funds for research and publication grants, for travel, and for bringing visitors to campus.
- Take calculated risks in recruiting especially outstanding faculty. In particular, make more of an effort to hire rising stars for endowed chairs, consider awarding immediate tenure when hiring faculty at a senior level, and compete for our outstanding faculty members who receive offers from other institutions.