Academic Excellence Committee
Recommendation Highlights
Academic Year 2003-2004

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• 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.