The Faculty Governance Committee (FGC) had the valuable contributions of
the following members this past year: Charles Hannon, Paul King, Nadia Lahutsky (FSEC liaison), Don Nichols, C. A. Quarles, Ellen Page Shelton, Carol Thompson, and Carolyn Spence Cagle (chair). The Committee also applauds the involvement of FSEC member, Rob Garnett, and Senator George Gilbert for their cogent comments during motion development for proposed changes to the TCU Bylaws. These changes will be presented by the FGC to the full Senate on May 5, 2005.

The committee met a total of seven times, including September 9, October 17, November 4 (in collaboration with the Committee on Committees), December (2004) and February 17, March 24, and April 21 (2005) in Bass 336.

The Committee responded to the following standing committee charges in its work on the committee specific charges. These standing charges included:

- Monitor the structure and functions of the Faculty Senate and Senate committees
- Recommend changes that will improve the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate and Senate committees in University governance

The Committee responded to the following specific charges during the year with the following activities and outcomes:

- Continue revision of the Faculty Senate sections of the Faculty/Staff Handbook

  ✓ Work with the Committee on Committees to clarify the categorization and duties of Senate committees and other committees that include Senate representatives (such as the UBAC, COIA, and the HMVV Committee)

The FGC met with the Committee on Committees on November 4 to respond to a proposal developed by Carolyn and Nadia on revisions to Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate, Article II, sections 5-7. These revisions reflected conversations in the FGC in September and October meetings. Editing of this document occurred, and the FGC continued to edit this document before the full Senate reviewed the document in March and approved sections 5-6 as proposed by the FGC. Based on Senate feedback in March, the FGC continued to refine section 7 of Article II. This edited section will be presented to the Senate for approval at the May 5 meeting.

During the November joint Committee on Committees and FGC meeting, discussion occurred about the possible need to edit the preliminary language on University committees (normally at the end of the Handbook for Faculty & Staff). Some questions evolved about the role of ex-officio members, expansion of committee membership
without Senate knowledge, and the approval process for faculty membership on University committees. Nadia offered to carry these questions and issue to the FSEC and the Provost for clarification and discussion. Due to other urgencies, no closure occurred on this issue during this academic year.

The FGC also considered a proposal to merge the four Senate standing committees into two committees that would focus on common or related charges. A constant thread with this discussion was the need to define an appropriate workload for Senators, the need to recognize throughout the University the value of Senate membership, and need for the efficient work and outcomes of Faculty Senate work to improve the life of University constituents. However, further work on this did not occur due to the need to focus on Bylaws motions specific to Senate size, proportional representation, and the at-large election issue. Decisions on these issues seemed foundational to any further work on determining the number of Senate committees or their charges.

- Reconsider the rationale for “at large” Senators and related questions concerning the optimal size of the Senate (including the desired number and size of standing Senate committees)

The FGC engaged in seasoned discussion on both the process and outcomes of motion development for the Bylaws of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate that would clearly speak to this charge. Throughout the majority of the year, significant numbers of hours and emailing of responses and ideas occurred to careful craft language acceptable to the Committee and which would be acceptable to the Senate as a whole. During the March Senate meeting, initial motion presentation occurred, and the FGC met several times to edit and refine motions on “normal” size of the Senate, proportional representation, and elimination of the at-large election Senator process. These motions, reflective of much thought and analysis by the FGC, will be presented to the Senate at the May 5 meeting.

- Work on finding a physical “home” for the Senate

With recent conversations on a new University Union to house all University constituents, the FGC recommends that the Faculty Senate have a “home” either in the new Union or in the old Student Center. It will be important for this “home” to house all Senate historical documents and allow meetings of the FSEC and other groups inherent in facilitating the valuable work of the TCU Senate on this campus.

Respectively submitted,

Carolyn Spence Cagle
Chair, FGC 2004-2005

5/3/05 CSC/csc