April 23, 2007

To:    Dr. Suzy Lockwood, Chair  
       Faculty Senate, 2006-2007

From:  Dr. Ranae Stetson, Chair  
       Senate Faculty Governance Committee

During the 2006-07 academic year the Faculty Governance Committee (FGC) had as its **Specific Committee Charges** to:

1. Monitor the implementation of Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate bylaws in the Faculty/Staff Handbook as specified in the motion passed during the February 2006 Faculty Senate meeting, and;

2. Consider the relationship between the faculty Senate and both the TCU Core Curriculum Director and the Honors Program Director.

In addition, the FGC has the following two **Standing Committee Charges**:

1. Monitor the structure and functions of the Faculty Senate and Senate Committees,

2. Recommend changes that will improve the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate and Senate committees in University governance.

**Results of Specific Committee Charges:**

**Specific Charge #1. Monitor the implementation of Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws regarding the membership of the faculty senate.**

In a meeting held on October 26, 2006 the Faculty Governance Committee reviewed the history, the February 2006 Senate approval vote, and the recommendation for the change of wording in the constitution regarding the implementation of Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate bylaws in the Faculty/Staff Handbook. According to Article III of the TCU constitution, amendments “...will become effective when approved by a two-thirds majority of the Faculty Assembly voting thereon by mail ballot, and upon ratification by the Board of Trustees. Adequate written notice of the proposed amendments shall be given to the members of the Faculty Assembly.”

The FGC made the following recommendation to Dr. Suzy Lockwood, as the FGC liaison to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, and to Keith Whitworth for disclosure and vote to all TCU faculty:

**Recommendation:** The resolution passed by the Faculty Senate in February, 2006 requires a change in wording to the Constitution of the Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate under Article II.2.A.2. Before such a wording change takes place it must be voted upon by the faculty assembly and ratified by the Board of Trustees. Should that happen in a timely manner it is hoped the resolution can be implemented for the Spring 2007 Faculty Senate elections. The FGC recommends the following changes in wording to the TCU Constitution:

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<th>Current Wording</th>
<th>New Recommended Wording for Article II.2.A.2.</th>
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<td>“There shall be members representing the several schools and colleges and members at large.”</td>
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<td>The words “and members at large” would be deleted.</td>
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Senators Lockwood and Whitworth did follow through on getting the changes in the TCU Constitution ratified by the faculty assembly and Board of Trustees and the Spring 2007 Faculty Senate elections did reflect the recommended changes in the Constitution.

**Recommendation:** The FGC also recommended that the wording in the Faculty Staff Handbook for 2007-2008 reflect the approved changes in the TCU Constitution and would read as follows:

(Article II. Section 2. Membership section A.2.) “There shall be members representing the several schools and colleges.” The words “and members at large” would be deleted.

Faculty elections in spring 2007 did conform to new Constitutional guidelines. In the March, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting, Senator Gillaspy did report on the newly elected senators. Unfortunately, the FGC did not follow through on an invitation to Senator Gillaspy for a specific meeting to review the pros and cons of the changes in election criteria that had been implemented and we hope next year’s FGC will be more proactive on establishing such a meeting.

**Specific Charge #2. Consider the relationship between the faculty Senate and both the TCU Core Curriculum Director and the Honors Program Director.**

A standing charge of the Academic Excellence Committee currently includes a provision for acting as a consultative body for the TCU Core Director.

**Recommendation:** The FGC recommends that the oversight of the TCU Core Curriculum Director and Honors Program Director be transferred to the Academic Excellence Committee. The Academic Excellence Committee already has a Standing Charge to act as a consultative body for the TCU Core Director and it seems a reasonable place for the same type of responsible oversight for the Honors Program Director.

**Results of Standing Committee Charges:**

**Standing Charge #1: Monitor the structure and functions of the Faculty Senate and Senate Committees.**

An ongoing project of the FS Committee on Committees is to collect the original charges for each of the FS Committees so a formal review of the structure and functions can be implemented. Until such charges are supplied a review by the FGC seems untimely.

**Recommendation:** Monitor the progress of the FS Committee on Committees and review the functions, charges, and TCU governance committees as needed.

**Standing Charge #2: Recommend changes that will improve the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate and Senate committees in University governance.**

**Recommendation:** The FGC recommends that during the 2007-2008 academic year the Senate explore the possibility of merging the Tenure, Promotion, and Grievance committee with the Faculty Governance Committee. There seems to be a natural overlap between the duties of each committee and the faculty might be better served to have issues pertaining to faculty under one committee.