

Resolution on Shared Governance in Financial Planning

Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Task Force on Faculty Involvement in Financial Planning

WHEREAS many universities face serious financial challenges because of budget cuts that have led to reductions in programs and courses offered, leading to the termination of instructors and jeopardizing the academic integrity of such institutions; and

WHEREAS the Texas Woman's University has suffered such cuts because of a reduction in the state's formula funding for TWU's programs, and other reductions in support from the state; and

WHEREAS, such cuts have resulted in a contraction of courses offered at TWU, with a concurrent reduction of instructors hired to cover such courses, and

WHEREAS, TWU is contemplating further budget reductions including a cut in compensation for instructors teaching summer classes; and

WHEREAS, such events decrease faculty and student morale, increase the difficulty of recruiting and retaining qualified faculty, and potentially threaten the university's reputation and relationship with the community; and

WHEREAS, TWU currently lacks a financial exigency policy to address a worst case scenario if continuing budget problems eventually necessitate consideration of the termination of programs and tenured faculty; and

WHEREAS, TWU is committed to shared governance, a collaborative goal-setting and problem-solving process built on mutual respect, trust, and communication between the administration and the faculty; and

WHEREAS, TWU's students, faculty, staff and administrators all benefit from shared governance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of TWU requests the Board of Regents to ensure:

- that a Financial Planning Committee ("FPC") be constituted to meet regularly to share information and provide transparency about possible budget cuts and ramifications, and to consider alternative strategies to meet such challenges without further contraction of courses and programs, or reduction of faculty compensation;
- that the FPC includes significant faculty representation, including the Speaker of the Faculty Senate and four other faculty members elected by the Senate, as well as the Provost, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, and one representative each from the Dean's Council and Council of Chairs;

- that, even without declaration of a financial exigency, that termination of programs or instructors will not take place without the participation and approval of the FPC, to ensure that due process is afforded those affected by such measures; and
- that TWU will adopt a financial exigency policy, such as the draft measure attached, which will provide transparency in decision making and ensure that shared governance is observed before such an exigency is declared or any final actions are taken.

February 26, 2010