

# Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes March 7, 2014

## Members Present:

Jennifer Bard, Gary Bell, Shannon Bichard, Dominick Casadonte, Peter Dotray, Gary Elbow, Deborah Fowler, William Lan for Kathryn Button, Audra Morse

## Members Not Present:

Janice Killian, Elizabeth Louden, William Pasewark, Suzanne Tapp

## Approval of minutes:

Minutes from February 13, 2014 were distributed. Shannon Bichard moved that the minutes be approved. All in favor.

## Welcome:

Jennifer Bard welcomed the members of the Executive Council.

## Old Business:

*Teaching Academy Plaques for Teaching Excellence - Tabled*

Jennifer Bard, Audra Morse, and Shannon Bichard have a meeting scheduled with the Provost to discuss the plaques.

*Changes to By-Laws to add an "Honorary Membership" Status – Suggested as agenda item for Spring Business Meeting*

Shannon Bichard chaired a sub-committee responsible for revising the Teaching Academy By-Laws as it pertains to Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership would be extended by invitation only. The addition to the by law would be written as follows:

*"Honorary membership (non-voting) may be extended to individuals who have demonstrated special commitment to the principles and purposes of the Teaching Academy."*

Dominick Casadonte suggested that "by vote of the Teaching Academy Executive Council Members" be added to the above law. Bill Pasewark moved to approve the change to the By-Laws. All Approved.

*Changes to By-Laws to reflect eligibility for membership – Reopened for Discussion*

Shannon Bichard chaired a sub-committee responsible for revising the Teaching Academy By-Laws as it pertains to Membership. Two changes were suggested by the sub-committee:

*Delete words "tenure or tenure track" from the qualifications under 3.1 part (a)*

*2) change the years at TTU from 3 years to 6 years under 3.1 part (a) (This item has been suggested as an agenda item at the Spring Business Meeting)*

*3) add the following statement to the membership portion of the OP possibly as item 3.2 or 3.3 These changes would allow full time professors of practice, instructors, and even librarians to apply, but the evidence of teaching excellence at TTU (which is 3.1 part d) would still have to be*

*present. If they aren't teaching, they won't have such evidence. Also, by extending eligibility to faculty that have been here 6 years (instead of 3), we stress longevity in such excellence. This seems a nice compromise, allowing a broader criteria for eligibility, but a longer period of commitment. (This item has been tabled indefinitely) (This item has been suggested as an agenda item at the Spring Business Meeting)*

There was discussion regarding the potential impact of these changes and the significance of the tenure process. It was suggested that a preamble be included affirming tenure and the Teaching Academy's support of tenure. After continued debate, it was decided that this agenda item and changes in the by-laws be tabled for later discussion.

### **Report from Chair:**

#### *Back Log*

Jennifer Bard announced that the Executive Council has been able to clear a back-log of old items and should be able to move forward with new agenda items.

### **New Business:**

*How can we energize Teaching Academy members in their individual colleges?*

*Do we want to identify a second individual (other than one of us) in each college to be a representative?*

*Do we want to host TLPDC meetings in each college- so that faculty can see Suzanne, her staff and the TA members in their college?*

### **Announcements:**

Deborah Fowler announced that she will be on leave for in Spring 2015. She offered to reserve the conference room at Skyviews for all of the Teaching Academy meetings for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Kimberly Leigh, Administrative Assistant for the TLPDC and Teaching Academy, gave an update on the DETA Selection Committee and the Teaching Academy New Member Selection Committee. The DETA Selection Committee open seats have been filled and the committee will assemble on the afternoon of this day, March 7, 2014 to decide on a recommendation to Provost Schovanec. The New Member Selection Committee call for nominations/volunteers has been sent out.

Our next meeting will be April 4th at the College of Education, hosted by Kathryn Button.

### **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Leigh