

# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY TEACHING ACADEMY



## General Business Meeting Minutes

3:40 – 4:15 p.m.

Immediately following the Teaching Academy Induction Ceremony  
October 3, 2008

- **Announcements:**

- **Membership Application** – application forms for new applicants were online for the first time this fall. The criteria are much more transparent. There were a couple of bugs but nothing major. Our thanks to David A. Rodriguez of the TLTC for his programming expertise.

- **Action Items:**

**Size of the Teaching Academy** – We will be sorting through the list of members to see who has left Texas Tech or retired. We want to identify Emeritus members and get a better idea of the true size of our membership. We want to continually acknowledge our members whether retired or active.

**Survey** – The Teaching Academy was established to demonstrate, support, promote and recognize teaching excellence at Texas Tech University. What are our members doing according to our mission statement? We want to get more members involved. William Lan is compiling a summary of the survey Academy members took last spring. There were approximately 60 responses. We hope to use this information to begin building constituencies in the Academy.

Lauren Gollahon suggested using Emeritus members to mentor junior faculty that are struggling and to help them through their problems.

Roman Taraban noted that the Emeritus members could organize their own group and decide among themselves how they could be of service to the Academy.

William Westney reminded the Academy that in the beginning, a very nice (more formal) reception was held when new members were inducted into the Academy. He suggested that we consider going back to this practice.

Roman Taraban agreed, adding that we could honor the Emeritus members at such a reception.

Debbie Laverie spoke about the budget constraints on the TLTC, suggesting that perhaps the Office of the Provost could partner with the TLTC to financially support such an event.

Dominick Casadonte asked that instead of having a spring business meeting, have a more formal reception with the Chancellor, President, and other administrative officials.

It was also suggested that we consider changing our fall business meeting so we can enjoy our guests at the Induction and Awards ceremony.

Mark McGinley proposed that we schedule once a month informal brown bags. If they are scheduled, people will be more likely to attend.

Dominick emphasized how very important it is to get together with Teaching Academy colleagues.

Susan Tomlinson stressed keeping such events informal.

Roman would like for us to include the idea of informal meetings in our next survey.

William Westney encouraged us to consider doing something very special once a year.

Alan Reifman suggested getting our teaching activities on the TA website. He could help get this done.

Dominick would like to see faculty highlights on our website.

Debbie Laverie informed the group that the TLTC has a new employee who could help with our website.

Dominick also noted that the Teaching Academy could provide information about teaching to the Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force.

**Visibility of the Teaching Academy** – Roman emphasized that we don't want the Teaching Academy to be a silent or unknown group on campus.

Cindy Akers updated the group on the doorplates we are interested in ordering for each TA member. The approval process stopped in the Building and Maintenance Committee. We need to resubmit our request to this committee.

Dominick stated that we can also help students know about the Teaching Academy by way of the campus newspaper and large building plaques.

Lauren Gollahon suggested that we make members available for peer review for junior faculty since some departments don't have this option.

Dominick agreed that maybe the Emeritus group could offer such a service.

- **Adjourn**