CFA Preliminary Recommendation on the Review of the Teacher-Scholar Policy

**Background**: According to TCNJ policy (the [Policy Framework](https://policies.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/247/2018/02/Policy-Framework.pdf)), all campus policies should be reviewed every five years. In reviewing the [Teacher-Scholar](https://policies.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/247/2018/02/Teacher-Scholar-definition-of-.pdf) policy, Steering has noted that it was last revised in 2012.

**Charge**: In keeping with the timeline outlined below, Steering asks CFA to review the Teacher-Scholar policy. CFA should consider whether this document is properly considered as a policy or as a general definition to be used in other documents. Because the policy deals with issues of identity and mission, CFA should seek testimony first from CSPP, and also from: Academic leaders; Faculty Senate; the AFT; and any other constituent bodies it deems appropriate. CFA is asked specifically to ensure that the language in the policy is clear.

**Final Recommendation:**

Initially, CFA met with the chair of CSPP, and we were puzzled as to why there was a policy that merely provides a definition of “Teacher-Scholar”. Campus testimony revealed the history of the document. This was created to memorialize a Teacher-Scholar definition that could not be altered without going through College governance. In our preliminary recommendation, CFA recommended expanding the “Teacher-Scholar” definition; however, campus testimony raised concerns with that idea. After considering the campus testimony, CFA recommends:

1. A definition as a policy is confusing. CFA added an explanatory sentence in the Policy Introduction section to explain the importance of this definition as a policy. This will ward off confusion.
2. The policy contained a reference to an antiquated College mission statement. This was removed and the text was edited for clarity.
3. CFA reviewed the general governance document (<https://governance.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/147/2017/08/Governance-2017.pdf>) and believes the “Teacher-Scholar” text should be incorporated into the TCNJ values statements that are under the purview of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Priorities (CSPP).