

UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Sandra Dahlberg
September 20, 2016; 2:30-3:55pm
Room A300

Attendance: Carolyn Ashe, Julio Canedo Soto, Luis Cedeno, Michael Connell, Travis Crone, Sandra Dahlberg, Michael Duncan, Trevor Hale, Jillian Hill, Pamela Hurley, Ruth Johnson, Anne Kane, Stephanie Karas, Karen Kaser, Abigail Koenig (for Joan Wedes), Cynthia Lloyd, Kendra Mhoon, Creshema Murray, Mitsue Nakamura, JoAnn Pavletich, Anand Pore, Azar Rejaie, Jacqueline Sack, Clete Snell, Benjamin Soibam, Michael Tobin, Hsiao-Ming Wang, Pat Williams, Keith Wright, Zhenyu Zhang.

By Invitation: Interim President Olivas, Interim Provost Hugetz, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Faiza Khoja

Regrets: Pamela Hurley, Robin Jose

Absent: Erin Hodgess

Call to Order: The Senate was called to order at 2:30pm by Senate President Dr. Carolyn Ashe.

Minutes of the Senate meeting on September 6, 2016. The bold wording was added to the last point of business: "Dr. Henney stated that **UHD policy, under the broad authority SB 11 gave to university presidents**, provides for temporary signage..." The minutes were approved as amended.

Comments

Interim President Olivas:

- Reported on the recent UH System Board of Regents meeting during which UHD received final approval for a BS in Nursing, a program in partnership with HCC. UHD will have embedded counselors and advisors to facilitate students' transfer to UHD after completion of the AS degree at HCC. This program will address Houston's shortage of nurses, and will provide UHD with better access to HCC and Lone Star students.
- Announced that UHD now owns the land for the new science and technology building, and is evaluating architects and contractors for the project. UHD is trying to purchase other pieces of land in the area.
- Invited everyone to HISD Superintendent Richard Carranza's visit to UHD on November 6. An official notice will be provided to the campus community.

Interim Provost Hugetz:

- Reported that enrollments for fall semester did not hit target enrollment figures in this base year for funding. Efforts will be made to increase headcount and SCHs for spring semester. The decrease in enrollment can be attributed to the new FTIC and transfer student admissions standards, and to the revisions to the probation and suspension policy. Graduate program enrollments are up, and because those SCHs are weighted at three times undergraduate rates, these enrollments will help offset the losses in lower level instruction.

Hale asked about raises, given the lower enrollments, and also noted that parking rates increased as did benefit costs for dependents.

- Provost Hugetz said he is committed to raises but noted that this is a legislative year and that tax revenues are down. He is not sure what the legislature will do in regards to funding, but the university has been asked to complete two exercises: one for a 4% reduction in funding, and another for 5% & 10% reductions. Raises could be done through reallocations.
- Provost Hugetz announced that in lieu of raises, faculty will receive a one-time stipend added to their October paychecks of at least \$300. Mid-level stipends will be \$1200 and the highest rate is \$1750. This is not base funded.
- The search committee for a new UHD president conducted 14 airport interviews last week and report that the pool is very good. In October 4 or 5 candidates will be on campus. The chosen candidate will start in January or July, depending upon their availability.
- On-campus interviews for Chief of Police are being conducted this week. A decision should be made within 2 to 3 weeks.
- There are 4 candidates for the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Faiza Khoja, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs:

- Announced that SACSCOC directors meet in November and will make the final determination about UHD's reaccreditation with an announcement in December.
- QEP is part of the SACSCOC reaccreditation, and UHD's QEP focuses on critical thinking and community issues and is led by Krysti Turnquest, Assistant Director of Community Engagement and Service Learning. A+CE Champions for the colleges are: CHSS—Sucheta Choudhuri (ENG), Creshema Murray (A & H), and Bridget Mueller (A & H); CST—Rachael Hudspeth (NS); CPS, COB—Ashley Blackburn (CJ).
- A+CE courses for spring semester will include most of the freshman seminars, all of ENG 1302, and BIO 1310 and BIO 1312.

Election and Election Update

- Clete Snell (CPS) was elected to FSEC. All FSEC positions are now filled.
- Ashe announced that the new ORCA committee was in place.

- Hale, as chair of the Committee on Credentials and Elections, will convene that committee shortly. Senators were asked to encourage faculty to run for Senate and for shared governance committees.

Announcements

- Ashe announced that the Faculty Senate webpage is being updated, and that Faculty Senate will soon have new working location (for FSEC meetings and other small meetings related to Senate business).
- UHD will host the University of Houston System Conference on March 31, 2017. The conference focus is graduate education. A call for presentation proposals will be forthcoming.
- Ashe asked that the Faculty Senate Constitution be reviewed to ensure that it is up to date. A committee was formed to conduct the review: Karas, Mhoon, Duncan, and Hale. The Handbook was updated for the recent SACSCOC review and should be fine.

Faculty Concerns—Considerations for Senate this year

Dr. Ashe asked Senators what issues their faculty had asked to have addressed by Senate this year. The following issues were identified by Senators:

- Dahlberg said she was asked to convey concerns about the increased parking fees, and that no increase notice was sent. Hugetz said multi-year increases were planned, and that notifications were initially distributed, but that he will provide that information again.
- Pavletich wanted clearer accountability for the structure of IT support, and information on who to contact when service requests are not addressed. Lloyd concurred.
- Rejaie wants to address some of the weaknesses of Blackboard as a delivery system for online courses, and to consider other delivery systems since Blackboard is often unresponsive to instructional needs.
- Dahlberg, Pavletich and Pepper noted that classrooms do not have functional lighting.
- Cedeno noted problems with room fobs, especially at the Commerce Building.
- Pore noted that projector screens in classrooms often block white board space making it difficult if not impossible to use both simultaneously.
- Johnson asked about the status of the Rank and Tenure Policy that is being revised to “stop the clock” during the tenure process. The policy is at Academic Affairs Council.
- Pepper asked for statistics that compare the pass rates for online and face-to-face instruction. Hugetz said that Bill Waller had prepared a report for some math courses and will see about running the numbers for others. Hugetz said that we need to provide good online instruction in order to compete for students and to boost enrollments. Hugetz said he was still working on the issue of cheating in online courses, an issue Senate raised last spring.

- Pore noted that limited resources for proctored exams negatively impact the quality of online instruction, and expressed concerns about the degree to which the structure of online courses is dictated by a lack of resources.

Tyra Hessel asked about the process for prioritizing the concerns brought to the Senate. Ashe said that FSEC will create a prioritized list and submit that list to the Senate.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:55pm.

The next Senate meeting is on October 4, 2016.