

UHD

Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Trevor S. Hale

Date and Time: March 1, 2016 2:30 PM

Room Number: C100

Attendance: Ryan Pepper (President), Susan Henney (Past-President), Carolyn Ashe (President-elect), Trevor Hale (Secretary), Pat Williams, Claude Rubinson, Steven Coy, Dvijesh Shastri, Azar Rejaie, Katharine Jager, Keith Wright, Kendra Mhoon (2:51), Jane Creighton, Charles Smith, Bernardo Pohl, Hsiao-Ming Wang, Pamela Hurley (2:53), Karen Kaser, Zhenyu Zhang, Erin Hodgess (proxy for Steve London from MS Department).

Guests: Ed Hugetz, Lisa Berry, Lucy Bowen, Johanna Schmertz, John Lane, Hossein Shahrokhi, Georges Detiveaux

Regrets: N/A

On leave: Steve London

Absent: Anne Kane, Maria Benavides, Robin Jose, Susan Baker, Michael Connell

Call to Order: 2:39 PM

Meeting Proceedings

Announcements:

1. Ten Senators attended the Faculty Senate meeting with Interim President Olivas this past Friday.
2. Several Faculty Senators were also in attendance at yesterday's (February 29) faculty meet and greet with Interim President Olivas.
3. The FSEC is ongoing discussions with the Faculty Affairs Committee to help with the charges sent to them a few weeks ago, including the stopping-the-clock resolution passed unanimously by the Senate last fall.

Point of order: Senator Smith inquired as to the status of resolution number six: What did we finally decide to do with the time served as an Associate Professor before going up for full?

Faculty Senate President Pepper: To remove the phrase that, "...but a minimum of six years is strongly recommended." from the University Rank and Tenure Policy.

Senator Smith: Not eight years?

Faculty Senate President Pepper: Eight years is something the College of Business does. The university policy has a phrase about six years which was being used as a de facto requirement, which is a violation of the UH System policy.

Senator Smith: Does that mean that our (COB) policy is at now at odds with the System and the University policy?

Senator Coy: The COB Policy says "strongly recommended" as well so it contains the same "weasel" phrase as the University policy.

Senator Smith: "But in the College of Business the 'eight years' is being used as a requirement!"

Senator Coy: "I know." "I am quite well aware of that"

Senator Smith: But we (the COB) can go beyond that minimum?

Provost Hugetz: "My interpretation is that you can more than that."

Senator Smith: "OK...so, basically, we can ignore the System and the University policy?"

Provost Hugetz: "I don't think you actually are...the way that it is written. My interpretation is that it is not, it is not contradictory with the System or the University policy."

Faculty Senate President Pepper: "So the use of the word 'recommended' in the Downtown policy prevented it from being a direct violation of System policy. The fact that nobody could ever go up 'early' and it was being used as a requirement was...as a de facto requirement...was as violation of policy. So the, the Senate was voting to have that promotion be based on merit only and not on years in rank but, but by the academic contributions of the applicant. So if that's the case and the will of the Senate was in favor of removing that than I would think that the College of Business would want to go back and revisit their own policy."

4. The Texas Council of Faculty Senates held a meeting in Austin last week. Senators Ashe and Hale attended.

Senator Ashe: A number of uses were discussed. All campuses reported on their instantiations of campus carry carve out zones being presented to their respective campus presidents. About half of the faculty senate officers in attendance at the TCFS reported that dorms were being included. Several reported no monies being used to build lock boxes anywhere on campus.

There was a discussion on trying to revive Senate Bill 15 which has died in committee twice before.

There was a panel discussion on the state of online education.

Pro Tempe Senator Hodgess (London): What did they say about online?

Answer: Mostly that some courses are not well suited for online learning.

Minutes

The minutes from the February 2nd meeting of the Faculty Senate meeting were electronically distributed for review last week.

A correction was suggested from Faculty Senate President Pepper that the minutes incorrectly cited Senator Hill as opposed to Senator Henney. This was confirmed by Senator Hill as she was on leave on February 2nd.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended above by Senator Coy. Senator Sastri seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

The minutes from the February 16th Faculty Senate meeting were electronically distributed for review last week.

A change was suggested to strike "MMBA" from the list of departments not submitting names for the President's Search Committee.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended above by Senator Smith. Senator Rubinson seconded. Motion carried unanimously with two abstentions.

Faculty Senate Faculty Workload Reduction Resolution: 1st read and discussion

Senator Coy: Don't think this is a problem.

Senator Henney: Don't disagree with Senator Coy but research expectations have risen dramatically and junior faculty service workloads have increased.

Senator Wang: There may be a case where a junior faculty member may want to serve.

Senator Jager: This could have a bearing on Rank & Tenure decisions.

Senator Ashe: Don't oppose this but we need to understand the ramification of this as well.

Senator Rubinson: In response to the notion that junior faculty may want to serve...they can wait.

Senator Pohl: Leadership can be defined in other ways.

Senator Rejaie: Probationary level is not looking for leadership with respect to service activities.

Senator Hale: Twenty years ago, when I was a junior faculty member at Colorado State, I was simply not allowed to serve on committees other than a department search committee. It is what saved junior faculty who wanted to say, "No." but who, if given the chance, would probably say "Yes." To look like a team player.

Senator Smith: I agree with Trevor. I've seen an explosion of the workloads heaped onto the junior faculty. The junior faculty need to be protected.

Senator Coy: Items 4 and 5 may not be needed.

Pro Tempe Senator Hodgess (London): Any chance of not having any full professors for resolution items 4 and 5?

Senator Creighton: Wouldn't like to see item 5 as a mandate.

Senator Rejaie: Associate professors need to show some leadership. Perhaps more scaffolding is needed in this part of the resolution.

Senator Wright: Our department uses seniority for course assignments.

Faculty Senate Online Integrity Task Force Resolution: 1st read and discussion

Senator Wang: What is ProctorU?

John Lane (Director, Technology Learning Service Information Technology): ProctorU is a third party service that the student's pay for proctoring services, usually remotely.

Senator Wright: Where are the proctors?

John Lane: Anywhere. They monitor test taking remotely with cameras.

Senator Wright: How many students per proctor?

John Lane: I don't know exactly but it is more than one to one.

Dr. Schmertz: Is it available in Italy?

John Lane: Anywhere there is an internet connection.

Faculty Senate President Pepper: Straw vote on support for resolution:

Unanimous support with no abstentions.

Faculty Senate Funded Leave Discussion

Senator Smith: Since I started this "discussion" via reply-to-all I should probably start it here. Please note that UHD is one of very few universities without a proper sabbatical system. To infer that higher paid faculty should not be eligible for funded faculty Leave is ludicrous. What UHD needs is a sabbatical policy.

Senator Wang: I agree with Senator Smith.

Senator Wright: Is anyone in the room aware of a "Good FFL" in that the person did what they set out to do? [The response via the Senators via a show of hands was nearly unanimous].

Senator Jager: The current process is odious and ill timed. Perhaps, there is a mechanism where everyone could get one. I know of some pregnant mothers who filed a FFL application.

Senator Coy: How many FFL applications are awarded aver year?

Provost Hugetz: Four.

Senator Coy: Then, perhaps, some number of years in service would be appropriate. If not 7 then 10 or whatever number would allow for about 4 per year.

Senator Henney: This program costs money and I, personally, don't want to give up T/TT lines in favor of this program. Suggest sending this back to FAC.

Senator Pohl: Just comment to praise the healthy debate in the Senate on a worthy topic.

Senator Hurley: Would like to see some objectives in the program based on merit.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

N/A

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is March 22nd.

Adjourn:

Adjournment at 3:55 PM.