

UHD Faculty Senate Meeting

September 17, 2013

Minutes

Present: T. Hale (President), G. Preuss (Past President), S. Henney (Secretary), R. Beebe (President Elect), C. Rubinson, M. Duncan, R. Johnson, J. Johnson, F. Khoja, P. Mandell, HM. Wang, T. Chiaviello, J. Davis, K. Hagen, G. Lund, M. Portillo, A. Lopez Pedrana, J. Quander, R. Sadana, P. Simeonov, C. Stewart, S. Zhou, J. Herrera, S. Koshkin, J. Tito-Izquierdo,

Absent: P. Deo, A. Lopez Pedrana, S. Penkar

Minutes

Minutes from 9/3/13 were approved unanimously.

Announcements

President's Charge for PS 10A05: Hale read the charge to the FAC from the President to revise this policy by Nov. 22. FAC is aware of the charge and met last Friday. Hale states "this is the number one priority" for the Provost and FAC.

University Advancement and Planning will be here October 1 to give us an update on their purview and plans.

Guest: Dr. Bill Waller, First Year Faculty Community of Practice.

There are courses that have been designated as high-enrollment first-year experience courses. The faculty for these courses are part of the "Community of Practice." There is a blog deriving from this that needs best practice content. You can access the blog at mooop.wordpress.com OR you can contact Dr. Waller for more information. There are small stipends available for faculty willing to engage in regular posting. Dr. Waller is also looking for people in each department to highlight student achievements in first-year courses. First-year community of practice will also receive a survey about attendance policies that are being used in first-year classes.

Senator asked to include an item in the survey that is sensitive to the needs of online instructors. Waller responds that this will be developed.

Workshop sponsored by AVID on Thursday, 9/19, from 1-4 in A300 on teaching reading/writing.

Texas Council of Faculty Senate meeting in Austin October 25 & 26. Beebe and Henney will attend.

Other Business

New ad hoc committee on Summer Salary has been formed to address differences across UH System schools regarding how summer salaries are determined. Drs. Lyon (CST), Wernet (CPS), Roundtree (CHSS), and Rowe (COB) will serve on this committee.

Nominations for Grievance Committee have gone out. Still need nominees from several departments.

Upcoming election for a member of FAC from CST.

Guest: Mr. Hugetz, SVPAA and Provost

Funds for the Teaching and Learning Center have been approved. There will be a faculty steering committee. Also, a search committee will be developed to search for a director. The Center will have three priority areas:

1. First-year experience. Everything that is being done to improve student success for freshman students. We are in a Gardner Institute program called “Gateway Courses,” which focuses on barrier courses that have a 40-50% freshman failure rate. Using strategies to help students succeed in these courses, not reducing the rigor of these courses. Putting University resources behind strategies that lead to increases in student success.
2. Online courses. Our growth this fall in online courses was over 20%; more than 20% of our overall courses are now online. We need to monitor the quality of these courses. Faculty need resources to improve their online pedagogy.
3. High-Impact Practices. No current administration infrastructure to support faculty development in this area.

Senator asked if part of the growth rate of online classes is lack of proctored exams; Senator states that if exams are not proctored, then there is no way to track quality of classes.

Hugetz states that there is a pilot project in COB that has to do with piloting proctoring solutions. The testing center is now equipped to proctor exams.

A Senator points out that UHD is similar in online growth to other institutions. Online growth can’t just be attributed to easy, unproctored tests. For a report on this, see publications by Allen and Seaman from the Sloan Consortium.

Carnegie Community Engagement Classification: A survey is being done that asks departments to report on the community engagement (i.e., internships, service learning, etc.) activities in classes. Responding is critical to our efforts to retain this classification.

A Senator asks if there is a target date for the search for the Teaching Center director. Hugetz states that hopefully the job will be posted in October.

Standing Committee Reports

APC: Senator reports that there has been one meeting; Chair is Crystal Burnett.

FAC: Co-Chairs were elected: Ashley Blackburn and Austin Allen.

UCC: No representatives present.

Ad-hoc committee on CMS department restructure: Senator/Chair will report back on their findings for all committees.

Audience member asks about “guarantee of summer teaching.” This should be part of that committee’s report.

Old Business

FAEIS department Senators Bose and Penkar were elected by acclamation.

There are redundancies in the function of CEC/COC. There is interest in combining the functions of these committees, which entails a change to the Constitution.

Motion for FSEC to develop language to address issues with CEC/COC in Senate Constitution and to bring this language back to the Senate for consideration.

Discussion: A Senator reviewed the process for amending the Constitution. There are also issues with election timing and including lecturers as part of the

Motion to amend: To include other issues in FSEC’s report as they pertain to the Constitution.

Amendment passes with one opposed and two abstentions.

Main motion passes with one opposed and two abstentions.

New Business

Faculty Awards Selection Committee.

Beebe indicates that no policy that describes the FASC. Currently the five winners from all categories “represent” their department on the committee.

Discussion:

- Do faculty “feel comfortable” with being represented by an adjunct or lecturer on this committee? Should the awards committee have at least one T/TT faculty member “representing” each department.
- Even if there is not a policy on this, does there need to be? Do we have to have a policy for everything? Can we have a set of rules or guidelines?
- There was not a problem with the functioning of the committee based on this. These adjuncts are the very best in their respective departments, and they have graduate degrees or equivalent.
- What if this creates a situation where one department has two votes?
- It was stated that one of the non-TT faculty winners did not attend last year. However, it was pointed out that this person seldom attended, whereas a TT faculty member never attended.
- We should not “require” an adjunct to perform service. Solution may be to ask if the adjunct wants to serve; if not, then elect someone from their department.
- Adjuncts are on short-term contracts, which may influence their votes if a supervisor is up for an award. Also may not be rehired for the next semester of service.
- Adjuncts are not qualified to evaluate full-time faculty on research or service.
- Audience member and FSEC member stressed that members of this committee are not “representing” their department. FASC members are independent voters, not representative

voters. They are evaluating excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. They are not advocates for people within their own departments, and thus are representing the ideals of these three areas, not any one department.

- Why were the adjuncts/lecturers allowed to serve in the first place? Presumably because they have the required expertise to do so.

Result: Hale will ask the FASC to put together some guidelines for election of FASC members in coming years.

Adjourn: 3:36 pm