

UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Nathan Neale
Regular Scheduled Senate Meeting October 6, 2020 2:30 – 4:05 PM
Online through Zoom

Senate: Ronald Beebe, Edmund Cueva, Michael Duncan, Godwin Agboka, Franklin Allaire, Amy Baird, Nina Barbieri, Maria Bhattacharjee, Alexander Bielakowski, Kais Bundoc, Dexter Cahoy, Prakash Deo, Isaac Elking, Lucas Fedell, Aaron Gillette, Shohreh Hashemi, Rachael Hudspeth, Tahereh Jafari, Timothy Klein, Michael Lemke, Cynthia Lloyd, Nathan Neale, Jean Nganou, Chu Nguyen, Anand Pore, Angelica Roncacio, Candace TenBrink, Rupak Rauniar, Joseph Sample, Arpita Shroff, M. Nell Sullivan, Pat Williams, Julie Wilson,

Absent: Lucas Logan, Krista Gehring, Lucas Logan, Jeffrey Martz, Kurt Stanberry

Guests: Eric Link, Provost/VPAA; Jimmy Jung, VP Enrollment Management, Michelle Moosally, AVP Programming and Curriculum; Jerry Johnson, AVP Sponsored Programs, Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds, Akif Uzman, Dean, College of Sciences and Technology, Kevin Buckler, Professor and Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee, Meritza Tamez, Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Mary Dickerson, Assistant Vice-President, IT Security, Hossein Shahrokhi, Associate Vice President, Information Technology, Rob Austin McKee, Assistant Professor, Eve Zehavi, Assistant Professor, Michael Connell, Professor, Patricia Ensor, Executive Director, W.I.D., Darlene Hodge, FS Admin, Said Fattouh, Director of User Support Services, John Lane, Director, Technology and Learning Service Information Technology, Sheryl Sellers, Timoteo Modrow, SGA President, Dr. Irene Chen.

Call to order: The Senate was called to order at 2:30 PM by Senate President Ronald Beebe

Dr. Beebe requested a moment of silence in memory of Kevin Evans, who was a very accomplished wrestler and recent graduate of UHD in 2019.

Minutes

M. Nell Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes and Alexander Bielakowski seconded the motion. An amendment to the minutes to include Maria Bhattacharjee as a present senator was made. The September 1st minutes then passed.

Dr. Beebe shared a statement of gratitude to UHD Faculty and Staff from SGA.

Reports

Ms. Mary Dickerson, Mr. Hossein Shahrocki, and Mr. Said Fattouh shared a lengthy presentation about DUO and implementation of DUO within the UH System and UHD.

Q – What do instructors need to tell students about DUO and their ability to access BlackBoard?

A – Said Fattouh stated that only email access requires DUO authentication. There is a detailed webpage that provides information (<https://www.uhd.edu/2fa>). They have been sending email messages to students since the first week of September about DUO. They are emailing those that have not enrolled. There is also a link in BlackBoard. He met with SGA President Modrow and obtained additional suggestions that they are implementing. It would be greatly appreciated if faculty speak to students about DUO.

Q – I had one push notification on my phone but have not had any notifications after this.

A – Said Fattouh stated that you will only receive this if using a web browser. If you are the only user on a device, you may choose to remember the device for 30 days. Then, the system will not ask again for 30 days.

Q – Why am I considered less of a security risk on my computer than my phone? What about if someone steals my laptop or phone?

A – Said Fattouh said that we will soon have two-factor authentication required for BlackBoard, People Soft and other programs. We chose O365 first because it is the easiest and we are learning a lot.

Hossein Shahrocki stated that typically web browser based users tend to be remote users. When looking at the “circle of risk”, we chose this approach due to the risk involved with web-based applications. We want to reduce the risk and will move to improve. Anything faculty can do to help students, will be helpful. We know many individuals do not read all emails or the entire message sent. We want to be more effective in getting the word out and want to use all channels. Faculty are important.

Mary Dickerson said Hossein and Said are correct and all decisions consider risk. They allow the 30 days as they look at consistency. They are trying to balance security with the fact that we are all users and no one wants to be inconvenienced.

Q – Dr. Beebe asked why UHD decided not to use some of the same implementation processes that other campuses used by other campuses that engaged faculty and other stakeholders. He acknowledge the technical focus but did not understand why we waited to have discussions with SGA and Faculty Senate after implementation instead of before.

A – Hossein Shahrocki stated that this is a lesson learned. We probably could have asked about other avenues for involvement from faculty and students. We originally used focus groups at other campuses to decide what products to use. We acknowledge that we could have “more success getting the word out” if we had more involvement from different constituents.

Q – Were there any UHD faculty involved on the UH System team? It seems that all other campuses were involved but we were left out.

A– Hossein Shahrocki stated that they did not have any faculty involved. We had representation from IT. We were concerned that if we brought in faculty that we may not have had the answers. We now realize that we should have had faculty involvement.

Q – What is the plan going forward? Only 25% of the students enrolled and they have until October 31. What strategies are you using to have faculty and students more involved?

A– Hossein Shahrocki we are gradually moving up the ladder to get groups involved. Other campuses had smaller numbers in rolling out DUO compared to UHD. Some schools are using the deadline to have people comply. We have some success. We want to avoid using the deadline and instead encourage students to enroll through a soft approach. We are moving to engage students through social media and then we will ask faculty to assist us with the remaining students as we move closer toward the deadline. The faculty deadline is October 13 and the student deadline is October 31.

Dr. Beebe ended the Q&A as the presentation and discussion took much more time than scheduled.

Q – How can faculty access the presentation slides?

A– Ron Beebe stated that they will be sent with the minutes.

Dr. Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds shared a detailed presentation on her service in this role. She is in her third year as the Ombuds. She has completed training that has strengthened her ability to serve faculty. She adheres to confidentiality, informality, independence and neutrality, which are the four standards of practice from the International Ombudsman Association. The Ombuds acts as a neutral agent for academic rights or one's working environment. She guides faculty through the policies and processes associated with rank and tenure, grievances, ethical conduct hearings, and other any other concerns that one may have as a UHD faculty member. The Ombuds helps faculty locate resources to help with specific issues but is not part of the grievance process. She is not a faculty advocate but is available to address policy-related questions in grievance hearings. The Ombuds serves clinical, tenured and tenure-track faculty as well adjuncts, lecturers, VMOE faculty, and department chairs. The Ombuds is a resource for departments and committees. As communications are confidential, so she will only share information if one explicitly instructs her to do so. The only exception is due to imminent risk or serious harm to one's self or others. The Ombuds can provide mediation. The Ombuds is chosen by Faculty Senate and then reports annually to FSEC and the Provost. Only time logs with disaggregated data are kept.

Dr. Beebe asked for questions and there were none.

Dr. Beebe then explained that the faculty senate would normally vote on Dr. Dahlberg continuing to serve as this was recommended by the previous FSEC during the summer. He said that ad discussion in FSEC raised concerns about the timeline. The recommendation is made by the previous FSEC and then the senate votes in the fall. The OMBUDS currently takes office on January 1. We may want to look at aligning this role with other shared governance positions.

Dr. Dahlberg offered to share her presentation to the new FSEC.

A member of FSEC shared concerns with the timeline and emphasized the importance of being fair and equitable.

Dr. Duncan stated that FSEC has until September 15th to open the position for further nominations if they decide it is necessary. The previous FSEC made the recommendation to retain Dr. Dahlberg in August.

Dr. Dahlberg suggested that the timeline be adjusted.

Dr. Beebe stated that the FSEC recommendation is to reappoint Dr. Dahlberg as Faculty Ombuds. As this did not come from committee, the motion does not require a second. He asked for discussion. There was none. The vote was called. The appointment passed.

Dr. Beebe mentioned that the senate may want to consider extending meetings to two hours as there are so many issues and a limited amount of time.

Dr. Beebe apologized to those that were going to present from the OER taskforce and requested that they present in two weeks.

A motion was made to continue the meeting for 30 minutes. It was seconded and passed. However, Dr. Beebe decided this may be unfair as many had other engagements and would not be allowed to participate.

Dr. Beebe reiterated his apology to the OER Taskforce.

Dr. Beebe echoed his earlier request for senators to solicit feedback about what priorities faculty senate should have

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anand Pore and a second was offered by Rachael Hudspeth. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.