



## Staff Council Minutes for April 21, 2021— Zoom Meeting

Minutes recorded by Yesenia Sanchez, Staff Council Secretary

<https://uhd.zoom.us/rec/share/q96mGlCs0raC-18fzsoQOcpORR6uRJ5gmW6PvmefktS6KxdkOIKVLTdMc9fTkOIZ.81-LJ3FFSM3kcTg->

**Board:** Caroline Smith, Bobbi Shaw, Sam Bible, Andrew Hannan, Yesenia Sanchez

**Guests:** Dr. Loren J. Blanchard – University, President

Ronda, Scherer— Associate Director, Sports & Fitness

Creshema ,Murray – Associate Professor of Communication Studies

Sandra, Jacobson— Manager, Annual Giving at UH-Downtown

Trenshae', Gilbert— Assistant Director of Student Activities

### Reports:

Andrew Hannan opens the meeting and introduces an explanation of the procedures for the meeting and UHD, President Dr. Blanchard. **00:01:51-00:2:25**

Dr. Blanchard thanks staff for the meeting invitation and speaks on the set of forums and health protocol efforts taking place in order to gradually repopulate the UHD campus. Responses by local experts such as the Chair of the Medical School at the University of Houston, will answer staff questions. **00:02:26- 00:04:05**

Dr. Blanchard reminds staff of “UHD vaccination Day” taking place on campus, Thursday April 22,2021. Methodist Hospital partnered with UHD to join in the effort. In order to receive vaccination, those interested should go through the registration process. Pfizer’s vaccine will be offered and 21 days later those that receive the first dose will be contacted for the second dose. **00:04:05- 00:05:28**

Knowledge & awareness of health and safety protocols will be made available for staff in preparation for the first phase of repopulation of campus in June and mid-July. Some things to expect: **00:05:26— 00:06:44**

- Ensure that people wear their masks.

- Purell Stations around campus.
- Elevators and Hallways marked to people know exactly how to flow.
- Signs on floors to remind people not to congregate together and stay at least six feet apart.

Dr. Blanchard moves on to speak on the different listening sessions he's attended in order to communicate the commitment that UHD is making to ensure that everyone will be healthy. He has met with staff, faculty, and now students to hear their perspective. Information gathered from the listening sessions will be presented during a Town Hall meeting. **00:44:13 – 00:08:54**

Student success is "everyone's business" at UHD. Clear ways in which staff impact student success will be provided. Dr. Blanchard also speaks on the responsibility to care for staff and present them with professional development opportunities. **00:08:54-00:10:06**

The first listening session has taken place and due to its demand a second one has been scheduled. **00:10:06-00:12:44**

- The first session will take place Wednesday, April 28 at 10AM.
- A virtual open session for all UHD community members will take place Tuesday, May 18 at 10AM.
- A limited in person staff session will occur on Thursday, June 3, at 10AM.
- Staff can present their questions during these sessions and Dr. Blanchard ensures that what is said will not fall on deaf ears.

Andrew Hannan thanks Dr. Blanchard for his time and addresses staff questions that came up during his presentation. **00:12:44-00:13:25**

**Speaker: Sam Bible**

Speaks on 2022 Staff Council Nominations. They will start May 3-17 and then voting will happen between June 10-24. **00:13:38-00:14:12**

A committee is working on the staff awards ceremony which is scheduled to take place June 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff Council will attempt to workout an in-person option. Any questions should be addressed to Sam Bible. **00:14:12-00:14:43**

**Speaker: Sandra Jacobson**

Speaks on the possibility for staff to contribute to the Give to Gators campaign. Any support from faculty and staff is welcomed to continue the tradition of providing for students in support to various college programs and scholarships. There are various ways to contribute including: **00:15:18-00:21:21**

- payroll deduction (customizable)
- Text message
- UHD Food Market: Text FoodMarket to 71777- follow the link through your smart goal.
- Presentation and links will be emailed to staff.

**Speaker: Trenshae Gilbert**

Talks about UHD's Main Event- Drive-in Banquet. Due to inclement weather it has been postponed for next Friday. Trenshae is looking for staff volunteers to support the students and student leaders. Come out in your best 50s gear! **00:21:34- 00:24:49.**

**Speaker: Rhonda Scherer**

Opening of UHD Sports & Fitness Center. The gym reopened Monday- Friday from 7AM-7PM for the university community. **00:24:53-00:30:18**

- No showers or lockers available.
- Offering online classes.
- Must wear a mask to come in.
- 40-person capacity.
- No Fees for using the gym for staff and faculty. (New Gym being built may charge in the future).
- Restrooms at the gym are available.

Question: Is there a blueprint of the new gym and what amenities it will have? **00:30:18-00:36:29**

- The new gym is a three-story building.
- Consist of 3 basketball courts and 3 studios.
- DEMO on nutrition demonstration kitchen.
- Recreational space for students to come and relax.
- Indoor Track.
- No swimming pool in the new gym building.
- Team Sports will be brought back for the Fall.

Question to Sandra Jacobson: is that a cat or a dog? **00:36:37- 00:36:47**  
It's a cat.

Andrew Hannan thanks Rhonda for the information and answering questions. **00:37:09-00:37:17**

Life events slide show not available, it will likely be posted to the Staff Council website. **00:37:17-00:37:54**

Sam Bible mentions a donation was made to the Gators Giving Campaign. **00:38:06-00:38:20**

COVID-19: a dashboard tracking has been made available on the COVID UHD website for tracking statistics such as the number of cases. **00:38:20- 00:38:27**

Listening sessions will have a survey for staff to post questions or provide feedback to Dr. Blanchard. **00:38:44-00:38:59**

Monthly meetings will now require that staff include their name on the survey. This information will not be used for tracking but to follow up with clarifications if necessary.

**00:40:05-00:40:45**

Andrew Hannan provides closing remarks, thanks staff and guest speakers for their time and work. Questions and concerns can be addressed to Staff Council **00:40:53- 00:43:53**