

UHD

Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Trevor S. Hale

Date and Time: September 1, 2015 2:30 PM

Room Number: A300

Attendance: Ryan Pepper (President), Susan Henney (Past-President), Carolyn Ashe (President-elect), Trevor Hale (Secretary), Susan Baker, Steve Coy, Pamela Hurley, Pat Williams, Anne Kane, Jillian Hill, Jane Creighton, Claude Rubinson, Steven Coy, Charles Smith, Dvijesh Shastri, Bernardo Pohl, Kendra Mhoon, Katharine Jager, Michael Connell, Azar Rejaie, Keith Wright, Robin Jose

Guests: Ed Hugetz, David Bradley, Bill Waller, Bill Flores, Faiza Khoja, Gene Preuss, Pat Ensor, Hsiao-Ming Wang, Johanna Schmertz, Karen Kaser, Linda Becerra

Regrets: N/A

Absent: Maria Benavides, Zhenyu Zhang

Call to Order: 2:33 PM

Meeting Proceedings

Welcome:

1. Faculty Senate President Pepper welcomed the new senators.
 - a. All senators in attendance introduced themselves to the assembly.
 - b. Faculty Senate President Pepper noted that there are three vacant Senate seats (one each in Criminal Justice, Math and Statistics, and University College).
 - c. Calls for additional nominations (Senators Rubinson and Benavides had previously self-nominated) for the At-large FSEC seats was made. No additional nominations were made. Faculty Senate President proposed that Drs. Rubinson and Benavides be elected to FSEC by acclamation. No Senators opposed the motion, hence, the motion carried.

Address from President Bill Flores:

1. Dr. Bill Flores addressed the Senate.
 - a. Dr. Flores thanked Drs. Pepper, Ashe, and Henney for serving in their roles as Faculty Senate President, Faculty Senate President-elect, and Faculty Senate Past-president, respectively.
 - b. Dr. Flores noted that UHD's SACS report was submitted on August 31.
 - i. He further noted that the report was "in a good position." both from the position as a University and from the position of a potential reader of the report.
 - c. Dr. Flores noted that former US Poet Laureate, Robert Pinsky will be on campus.
 - d. Dr. Flores also noted that he will be part of a contingent of US University Presidents going to Cuba.
 - e. Lastly, he commented on how well the Freshman Convocation was and how a prospective student from Tennessee had reached out to UHD.

Faculty Senate President Pepper asked the President about the status of the new science and technology building.

Answer: The building was approved at the last UHS Board of Regent's meeting and the university is currently in the process of negotiating for the land.

Address from Provost Ed Hugetz:

1. Provost Hugetz handed out hard copies of the current fall semester enrollment numbers.
 - a. He noted that the data (e.g., a 3% drop in undergraduate SCHs from September 1, 2014) was not good news for UHD.
 - b. He further noted that the dramatic increase in graduate enrollment (which the state reimburses at a higher rate) will mitigate some of the dollars lost. This was mostly attributed to the hyper growth (e.g., 77% increase in graduate SCHs) in the MBA program in the College of Business.
 - c. Provost Hugetz commented that the freshman class size was downsized on purpose to 898 students and that the new admissions standards for transfer students was having an effect on overall enrollment.
 - i. However, Provost Hugetz further commented that the people we are not admitting were the exact same people that were hurting our transfer student graduation rates.

Address from Vice President David Bradley:

1. VP David Bradley briefly commented that the new parking garage seems to be working well. He noted that the parking office was watching the parking utilization by various groups and that GS3 (Girard Street Level three which is reserved for faculty only) had some parking spots available at all times (i.e., it had never reached capacity).
2. He further noted that Temporary Parking Lot B was closed because it was always a temporary solution. He also noted that the rent being charged by Metro was high.

New Business:

1. Faculty Senate President Pepper addressed the assembly and asked for items that the Senate would like to see addressed during the course of the year.
 - a. Senator Coy: Retention strategies, in general as well as for FTICs.
 - i. Keys for success are “must be easy” and they must be available to the P/T faculty.
 - ii. Senator Coy also asked that we visit grade replacement and how, if at all, that grade replacements are affecting the 6 year FTIC graduation rates.
 - b. Senator Connell asked the Senate to take up the issue of the 1st year experience...both for freshmen as well as for transfers.
 - c. Senator Smith urged the Faculty Senate President to consider taking up the issue of academic minors and how, again if at all, they could be affecting graduation rates.
 - d. Senator Hill noted the Senate must address Gen Ed in the coming year and that Senate should take up the issue of committee consolidation.
 - e. Senator Jager asked the Senate to investigate the availability of food solutions for students as UHD is in one of Houston’s many food deserts.
 - f. Senator Hale urged the Senate to, once again, take up the issue of not allowing Associate Professors to vote on their colleague’s promotion to full professor.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is September 15th.

Adjourn:

Adjournment (First: Smith/Second: Hill) at 3:59 PM.