FACULTY SENATE

MARCH 05, 2014

MINUTES

**Members Present**: A. Magdy, W. Amonette, J. Bechtold, C. Diepenbrock, K. Divoll, J. Fritz, D. Garrison,

L. Gossett, S. Graves, D. Haworth, A. Johnston K. Ley, S. Masood, P. McCormack, S. McIntyre, I. Pavlova, M. Peters, A. Perez-Davila, R. Puzdrowski, B. Rashid, R. Mohammad, L. Robinson, M. Short, F. Simieou, J. Smith, B. Stephens, A. Valenti, L. Jean Walker, C. Ward, J. Willis, P. Withey, D. Shulsky

**Members Absent**: T. Michael, L. Shiau

**Others Present**: D. Shulsky, D. Biggers, G. Houston, K. Matthew, R. Short, C. Stockton, K. Wielhorski

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Garrison asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. The minutes of February 05, 2014 were approved with the following amendments:

* Add *C. Diepenbrock* to the absentee list
* Page 3 – change heading to “*Formation of the Faculty Workload Ad hoc Committ*ee”
* Page 3, 2nd paragraph – the Faculty Workload Ad hoc Committee will be authorized until February 2015.
* Page 3-3rd paragraph – add “*Dr. Garrison responded that the policy would return to the Faculty Life Committee”.*

Provost’s Report

Dr. Stockton reported that the Academic Council endorsed the Requirements for a Minor Policy. When the Faculty Senate and the University Council approve the policy, departments will be able to begin developing/implementing Minors.

At University Council meeting, there was a recommendation to modify the previously approved the Upper-Level Requirements policy to include a statement authorizing the Academic Dean to grant waivers of the requirements. The modified policy was approved by Academic Council. If approved by the Senate, the policy will be resubmitted to University Council for approval.

Provost Stockton stated that the UH System Board of Regents approved tuition and fees for two years. The variable rate for FY15 and FY16 was approved. The fixed tuition rate was approved. Under this plan, freshmen students will pay the same rate for four years. The rate for first two years will be higher than the variable rate but by the junior and senior year would decrease. This will be beneficial to students. Students would have to complete 30 hours per year for four years to be eligible for fixed rates. If a student starts out with the fixed rate and withdraws or does not complete the required hours, the rate will change automatically to the variable rate. Both rates will be implemented in fall 2014.

Dr. Stockton stated that at the Board of Regents Meeting, a report from the UH-System Sugar Land Ad Hoc Task Force was presented. The task force was commissioned by Chancellor Khator to study what was needed to increase UH presence in Sugar Land at the request of community members. The task force recommendations stated that beginning fall 2014, UH System should implement a 2-5 year plan through which UH will be the exclusive UH-System institution delivering baccalaureate and graduate programs in Sugar Land; Implementation of this change should leave no current students stranded or existing faculty contract violated and UHV be furnished with funds needed to make it a destination university for the city of Victoria; UHV Nursing program be transferred to the University of Houston and remain in Sugar Land; and over the course of the multi-year plan, UHV and UHCL will terminate offerings at Sugar Land. Provost Stockton indicated that he has asked the HSH Dean to examine which courses overlap since we offer the Psychology Program at UHCL Pearland and at Sugar Land. Eventually, the program may be transferred from Sugar Land to UHCL Pearland.

Finally, Provost Stockton acknowledged concerns regarding costs of publishing in professional journals. He asked the senate to work with faculty in schools to provide a report specifying those peer-reviewed professional journals. He stated that although funds are not allocated at this time, he would discuss the concerns with the Deans Council.

**Texas Council of Faculty Senate (TCFS) Report**: Dr. Garrison gave a brief overview of the TCFS Spring meeting. The meeting’s business included a panel discussion related to Women in Higher Education; faculty’s role in shared governance and a UHS joint resolution on childcare. Dr. Garrison asked members to contact him for more information.

**UHS Board of Regents (BOR) Meeting Report**: Dr. Gossett provided some highlights of the meeting:

* Success with attracting and retaining minorities in Higher Ed
* THECB representative presentation on trends important to faculty
* UH-Sugar Land Task Force – UHV Nursing Program transfer

**Shared Governance Committees Reports**

**University Life Committee (ULC):** Dr. Perez Davila reported that the new smoking area for the Delta Building will be further down from the staircase. The new location will accommodate both the smokers and the students that are dropped off.

**Planning & Budgeting Committee (PBC**): Dr. Simieou said that PBC approved the FY2015 Funding Request Priorities at the last meeting.

**Facilities & Support Services Committee (FSSC):** Dr. Rashid indicated that UH-System Legal approved the Use of Facilities by Internal Constituents Policy with minor changes. The policy will be forwarded to University Council. FMC will be conducting an air balancing project in the Bayou Building.

**QEP Report:** Dr. Walker reported on February 21, members of Cohort two participated in their third workshop on Critical Thinking with Dr. Gerald Nosich. The focus was on assessment and syllabus development. There were 60 participants. On February 22, Dr. Nosich provided a special full-day presentation on critical thinking as it applies to writing. 20 individuals attended. Dr. Patty Payette of the University of Louisville, who has passed the five year SACS review for their QEP on Critical Thinking will meet with the Quality Leadership Team on April 3rd and 4th to talk about her experiences in integrating the QEP university-wide, some structures they put in place, and her experience with the five-year report. Videos of the workshops as well as syllabi that have been approved as QLT courses can be found under the link called Professional Development on the QEP website.

**Senate Committees Reports**

**Budget Committee**: Dr. Robinson said the committee will focus on the Summer Pay Policy.

**Research Committee**: Dr. Gossett reported that faculty will be contacted for updated research information for the online faculty research webpage. The committee plans to gather information on open access journals in order to address faculty concerns relating to publishing in peer-reviewed professional journals.

**Curriculum & Teaching Committee**: Dr. Willis said the meeting was cancelled. However, C&T will begin review of the Online Policy.

**Faculty Life Committee**: Dr. Divoll commented that the committee plans to address the rules for exigency and the UHS joint resolution on childcare. Additional information will be provided at the next senate meeting.

**Faculty Workload Ad hoc Committee**

Dr. Ley is Chair and School representatives include Dr. Ley-Chair, Dr. Masood-SCE, Dr. Kanenberg-HSH, Dr. McEnery-SOE, and Dr. Michael-BUS. The committee will review the policy and make recommendations to the senate. Dr. Garrison asked senators to inform colleagues of the school representatives serving on the committee. Dr. Stockton asked members to be mindful of budgetary implications when reviewing the policy.

**Announcements**

The Faculty Climate Survey was emailed to faculty.

The assembly will be available on web cast on March 27 from 11:30 a.m.

**New Business**

**Freshman and Sophomore Admission Policy**

Dr. Bendeck explained that the revised version of the policy is being brought to the senate for approval. Following discussion, the senate agreed to approve the policy as amended for the 2014 and 2015 academic years and to re-evaluate the policy after that period. There was a motion and second to approve the recommendation. The motion passed.

**Non-Accredited Transfer of Credit Procedures**

Dr. Bendeck presented a handout outlining the process for evaluating non-accredited transfer credit submitted for the senate’s information. She explained that the procedures are already in effect but UH-Legal had recommended a more explicit statement in the catalog. The senate noted the information.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.