**Faculty Senate**

**October 1, 2014**

**Minutes**

**Members Present**: M. Akladios, C. Carman, T. Barfield-Cottledge, J. Bechtold, S. Cotten,

C. Diepenbrock, K. Divoll, T. Fox, J. Fritz, D. Garrison, L. Gossett, B. Grigsby, B. Hentges,

A. Johnston, S. Lechago, P McCormack, S. McIntyre, T. Michael, I. Pavlova, A. Perez-Davila, M. Rob,

L. Robinson, C. Sawyer, L. Shiau, M. Short, D. Shulsky, F. Simieou, J. Smith, B. Stephens, A. Valenti,

C. Ward, J. Willis, P. Withey, L. Wu

**Others Present**: D. Biggers, Z. Czajkiewicz, S. Gladden, G. Houston, C. Stockton, R. Short, K. Wielhorski

**Minutes of September 3, 2014 Meeting**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**Provost’s Report**

Dr. Stockton announced that national leaders on working with first year students, Dr. John Gardner and Dr. Betsy Barefoot will conduct a one-day summit on October 15. They will share their experiences on engaging and supporting first year students. The summit titled “*Enhancing First Year Student Success and Engagement*” will provide information on working and retaining modern first year students. The purpose of the Title III grant received is to enhance retention of first year students. The summit will provide an opportunity for faculty professional development. All faculty members are encouraged to attend.

Provost Stockton summarized the Academic Affairs related information recently shared at the university-wide presentation.

* Enrollment increased significantly--headcount up 6.8% from fall 2013; Total of 8677 students;
* Total SCHs up 9.2% or 7787 SCHs
* Online hours increased slightly
* Fulltime undergraduate Hispanic students increased to 33%; 25% needed to be classified as HSI institution
* International enrollment increased significantly: Fall 2013 468 students; Fall 2014 536 students
* Average of 2300 degrees awarded
* Increase in grant funding – currently $7.5 m; $2.8 in 2013

Provost Stockton thanked faculty for their contributions to growth at UHCL.

Dr. Sawyer asked for an update on the current programs at the Sugar Land campus and whether any programs will be transferred to UHCL. Provost Stockton said that all programs excluding UH programs will move out of Sugar Land. UHCL’s Psychology program faculty will use resources at Pearland, online and UHCL. Dr. Stockton said that he has no knowledge of UHCL gaining any of those programs.

Dr. Davila asked for an update on the ELS space issue in light of increased space needs as a result of increased international enrollment. Provost Stockton responded that later today, he would meet with Dr. Staples and other administrators to address the ELS issue.

Dr. Stockton stated that he presented data on SCE faculty overloads, cost factors and class size to Dr. Staples. President Staples is reviewing the data and will make final recommendations to address faculty teaching overloads and resource implications due to significant SCE international student enrollment.

In response to a question for an update on TLEC, Dr. Stockton referred to an upcoming meeting with the TLEC Advisory Committee to discuss next steps for TLEC. Provost stated that he will ask the Advisory Committee to visit peer institutions with similar centers and based on findings, prepare a proposal for submission to President Staples. He reiterated his support of TLEC and commitment to improving it.

**Senate Committee Reports**

**Budget Committee**: Dr. Akladios said a meeting will be held next week. Topics for discussion include summer pay, pay and merit raises, and base salary comparisons.

**Curriculum & Teaching Committee**: Dr. Mary Short indicated that C&T will consider the Accessibility Policy, Q & A process and the BS in Counseling. The BS Counseling program proposal may be voted on at the next meeting.

**Research Committee**: Dr. Carman reported that discussion focused on recommendations from the faculty retreat research working group, research website issues and publication cost issues and support. Karen Wielhorski, Neumann Library will attend the next meeting to share information on the library needs and services.

**Faculty Life Committee**: Dr. Divoll stated that the committee will continue to discuss child care. There is an ongoing discount program with 5 different agencies in the area. More information on the discount program is available on the Human Resources website. Hours of operations for participating agencies are a challenge for both faculty and students. There was a suggestion to explore the feasibility of extending the discount program to the Pearland Campus area.

**Shared Governance Committee Reports**

**Facilities & Support Services Committee (FSSC)**: Dr. Valenti stated that FSSC plans to review its by-laws. Dr. Rob asked for an update on the new parking system issues. Dr. Houston responded that apparently the vendor selected to implement the parking software is having issues with the system. They are working on resolving the issues. Dr. Gossett asked whether FSSC was involved in the decision making to change the parking system. Dr. Houston responded that the issue was brought to the parking committee as an information item, and submitted to FSSC as an information item at the last FSSC meeting. FSSC was not involved in making the recommendation for the new system. A question was asked about whether the employee parking lot would be extended. Dr. Houston said that the PARC will meet shortly to discuss these issues. Other questions asked included who made the decision to change the system and based on what grounds, who is enforcing parking; and can the current system be reversed until all the problems are worked out. FSSC senators were advised to seek clarification on those questions at the next FSSC meeting and report to the Senate.

**Planning & Budgeting Committee**: Dr. Simieou said that there is a call for agenda items for the next meeting.

Dr. Shiau commented that there is a need for a multi-purpose facility where students can participate in activities between and after classes. This facility would promote a sense of attachment to the university. Dr. Ward pointed out that such a facility was included in the facilities master plan. Dr. Stockton stated that the first step would be to ask the legislature for approval to approach the student body for their input regarding such a facility. Next, a referendum would have to be conducted to determine whether students will support the initiative financially.

**University Life Committee**: Dr. Hentges said that discussion continued on the implementation of the hand sanitizer project at the last meeting. Other topics discussed include the recycling project and relocation of the smoking pad near the Delta Building to a new location.

**Faculty Retreat Report**

Dr. Ward provided a follow-up on the retreat. Four working groups addressed topics from the faculty climate survey which include teaching, research, shared governance and academic honesty. The working group Chairs and the Faculty Senate Liaisons prepared and presented a PowerPoint presentation at a meeting with senior administration. The administrative group is committed to continued dialogue on the recommendations developed at the retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.