



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

University Council Minutes

November 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m. (Virtual Teams Meeting) | Meeting Called to Order by Ira K. Blake, President

In Attendance

Elizabeth Beavers, Steven Berberich, De'Awn Bunch, Dwayne Busby, Samuel Gladden, Aaron Hart, Eric Herrera, Esther Herrera, Rebecca Huss-Keeler, Heather Kanenberg, Nick Kelling, Beth Lewis, Hiba Loya, Vivienne McClendon, Brad McGonagle, Miguel Gonzalez, Kathryn Matthew, Timothy Michael, Evelyn Miralles, Joan Pedro, Roberta Raymond, Timothy Richardson, Joseph Staley, Brian Stephens, Joyce Delores Taylor, Edward Waller, Christine Walther, Christopher Ward, Paul Withey, Randall Xu; Faiza Zalila

ABSENT: Charlotte Tullos, Mark Denney

Guests: Lisa Hudson, David Rachita

Approval of Minutes

The October 8, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Academic Council

Education Abroad Catalog Proposal Changes

Dr. Bianca Schonberg, Executive Director of Education Abroad, presented two proposals. The first proposal focused on re-establishing the Education Abroad Department at UHCL. There is currently no official policy that determines how education abroad grades and GPAs for students participating in the partner provider program are documented. The proposal sets grading guidelines that state that all courses are taken upon approval and receipt of the education abroad course approval form, and grades received abroad will be reflected on the student's UHCL transcript but not factored into their GPA. In the partner provider program, all students, foreign or domestic, will receive a transcript reflective of the grade and credit earned. Students in the partner provider program cannot request grades to be applied as either a credit or non-credit. Students can only earn credit once for a class.

The second proposal addressed the course(s) taken on an approved education abroad program during a student's final semester. The course(s) may be considered in-residence per the college dean's approval. A letter or an email from the college approving the exception, accompanied by the course approval form, is to be submitted. Approval by the advisor, college, and dean allows a student to take courses abroad based on the 30-hour residency requirements (referenced on page 24 of the current catalog).

These two proposals were recommended for approval by the Academic Council and Faculty Senate. Motion to approve the changes passed at University Council.

EDLS 6-Hour Dissertation Proposal

Dr. Kathryn Matthew, Associate VP for Academic Affairs, presented the EDLS 6-Hour Dissertation Proposal regarding the College of Education doctoral program. The proposal is to revise the dissertation policy in the College of Education by reducing the total number of hours required to complete a dissertation to 6 hours. The change is requested because students are not requiring the current 9 -12 hours to complete their dissertation. COE faculty revised the curriculum enabling students to start early on dissertations by aligning the EDD and CNI and EDD/EDLS. This change in hours in the program still meets the requirements for SACS and the Coordinating Board. There being no questions, the revision to the policy was approved

Temporary Test-Optional Policy

Provost Berberich presented the revised temporary test-optional policy with one change, the extension of the testing requirement date from August 2021 to August 2022. The extension was approved by Chancellor Khator for all UHS campuses. There being no questions, the revision to the policy was approved.

Information Items – University Shared Governance Committee Reports

Academic Council

No report presented

University Life Committee (ULC)

HR MAPS Update

Dr. Christine Walther reported the task forced reviewing the HR MAPS has completed its work and will meet with University Life Committee to discuss it on Friday, October 9. The policies will then be made available for members of the University Council to review as soon as possible. There are several policies, so the UC members will be provided sufficient time to review and provide feedback.

Freedom of Expression Policy Update

Mr. David Rachita, Dean of Students, presented and explained the contents of the Freedom of Expression Policy for UHCL, which mimics UH System's policy. He and Ms. Valerie Coleman-Ferguson, UHS Legal Counsel, worked on the policy. Mr. Rachita explained that the information in the procedure is not new to UHCL, as these guidelines have been practiced over the years. He noted one substantial change to the policy is the ability to use now amplified sound at a 68-decibel level, the standard use within the City of Houston.

During the policy presentation, an inquiry about Wilson Park not being on the list of outdoor areas that required reservation for its use was raised. Dean Rachita addressed the question and proposed adding section 4.5.4 to the policy to include Wilson Park as one of the outdoor areas required to be reserved before use.

Other items being addressed regarding the policy as presented are determining the definition of "substantial disruption" mentioned in section 4.1.5 of the policy and identifying the outdoor areas at UHCL Pearland that require a reservation for use. Dean Rachita will seek input from legal counsel on these two items.

Planning and Budget Committee (PBC)

No agenda items

President's Report

President Blake acknowledged the exceptional job done by all to ensure that the campus remains safe and healthy by abiding by the safety protocols. President Blake reported that despite the university's activities in opening up as a polling site for early voting and election day and being a mobile testing site for the community three times, since March 2020, the number of cases reported was substantially low (below 30) with no new issues or quarantines reported as of this meeting time.

President Blake, as well as other Texas university presidents and chancellors, met virtually on Thursday, November 5 to present their legislative appropriation requests to the legislators. During the 3 minutes session, President Blake referred legislators to UHCL's request online and highlighted the accomplishments of Osvaldo Rodriguez, a first-generation student from Pasadena, Texas, and computer engineering major, in the College of Science and Engineering who has done exceptionally well due to the support received as a student at UHCL in hopes of legislators hearing what the university's public mission is here in Texas.

The second segment of the Big Question Speaker Series is on Friday, November 13. President Blake encouraged administrators to provide professional development time to the staff so they could attend the virtual webinar. "The Future of Inclusion and Globalism in Higher Education" will be presented by Dr. James Anderson, author and former chancellor of Fayetteville State University, a historically Black public regional university.

President Blake is scheduled to meet virtually with Ms. Margaret Spelling, who served as the secretary of education under former President George Bush and was responsible for the No Child Left Behind initiative. Ms. Spelling is now serving as the President/COO of TX2036, a nonprofit organization building long-term, data-driven strategies to secure Texas' continued prosperity for years to come. In 2036, the State of Texas turns 200. The Meeting is the first conversation about TX2036 goals and UH-Clear Lake's mission of intentionally preparing our growing population for the workforce.

For the Good of the Order

Mr. Joseph Staley – The Development Office is continuing work on funding proposals for UHCL Teach, outreach for the university's centers and institutes, and scheduling informational sessions with groups like the Houston Endowment. We are starting conversations for their next set of funding to the university. Alumni Relations is building the alumni community relation and mobilizing the group. A meeting is set for Friday, November 9. Office of Special Events has prepared a guidebook to share explaining the functions of that office. On the evening of Friday, October 9, Barrios Technology will hold a picnic and movie night outdoors at the Clear Lake campus for their staff. University Advancement looks forward to hosting similar events at the Clear Lake and Pearland campus' and possibly the TMC location, extending the offer to other corporations to use outdoor spaces on campus for similar events for their staff. The Cultural Arts Department is now providing virtual presentations. The next event is scheduled for November 17, a virtual presentation by the Legendary Taj Mahal. The university is continuing our partnership with Bay Area Houston Ballet Theater, which is moving forward with holiday performances in the theater. The Bayou Theater is now the home of Clear Creek Community Theater, a new partnership for the university.

Dr. Elizabeth Lewis – Reported plans are being developed for a questions and answers community forum in late November or early December, virtually or at the Pearland campus with Senator Larry Taylor, Representatives Ed Thompson, Greg Bonnen, and Dennis Paul. These are legislators who represent the Pearland and Clear Lake areas. The hour session is to discuss and answer questions related to the upcoming legislative sessions and the current political climate.

Dr. Joan Pedro – The College of Education has started discussions about the PreK – 3 option for UHCL. College of Education teacher candidates to assist the district schools as substitute teachers due to a shortage of instructors in the local and surrounding school districts. Faculty members and available alumni can also participate in the substitute teaching pool. Some assignments will be virtual and others online. College of Education interns I and II are currently working in the school districts.

Ms. Evelyn Miralles – Held the Institute of Human and Planetary Sustainability (IHAPS) Town Hall meeting with faculty to provide information and answer questions about IHAPS. President Blake and Provost Berberich were present and offered opening remarks. The video of the Town Hall meeting is available on the IHAPS website.

Dean Waller – Reported that the College of Business Sustainability Concentration in the MBA program was ranked 7th among the programs that have this concentration. Provost Berberich added that the College of Business is ranked 55 in the United States by University HQ.

Dean Gonzalez – The College of Science and Engineering had a successful accreditation visit for the Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Safety and Health program, which had no findings. The Mechanical Engineering Program also did well, with minimal results being worked on and will be addressed quickly. The final resolution will be presented at the ABET meeting in June 2021. The visit was conducted virtually for the first time. Dean Gonzalez extended special appreciation to the program chairs who did an exceptional job, Dr. Mountain, Dr. Akladios, Dr. Harman, and Dr. Dubrovskiy.

Dr. Becky Huss-Keeler – Reported that UHCL's Early Childhood program is ranked 23rd out of 85 programs across the United States as having one of the most affordable programs.

Next Meeting

December 10, 2020, | 2:00 p.m., Virtual via Teams

There being no further business, the Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved

- EDLS 6 Hours Dissertation
- Education Abroad Changes
- Temporary Test-Optional Proposal Extension