



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

University Council Minutes

October 8, 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, Mark Denney, Samuel Gladden, Aaron Hart, Eric Herrera, Esther Herrera, Rebecca Huss-Keeler, Heather Kanenberg, Nick Kelling, Anna Klueyva (for Christopher Ward), Beth Lewis, Hiba Loya, Vivienne McClendon, Brad McGonagle, Kathryn Matthew, Tim Michael, Evelyn Miralles, Joan Pedro, Roberta Raymond, Timothy Richardson, Joseph Staley, Brian Stephens, Joyce Delores Taylor, Edward Waller, Christine Walther, Paul Withey, Randall Xu

ABSENT: Miguel Gonzalez, Usha Mathew, Charlotte Tullos, Christopher Ward, Faiza Zalila

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Academic Council

Dr. Berberich commented that the survey sent by UH System related to diversity was sent out to key players for review and responses and requested data will be provided and completed by due date of 11/23/20.

Next, Dr. Berberich reported the following policies were approved at Academic Council:

Academic Suspension and Reinstatement Policy

The proposed Academic Suspension and Reinstatement policy was presented for review. Dr. Kathryn Matthew stated the policy changes were specifically made after the second and third suspensions, with a one-year reinstatement (second suspension) and after one-year reinstatement (third suspension). Dr. Matthew noted the previous policy stated after the third suspension reinstatement was indefinite. The changes were made to provide students a better opportunity to return to UHCL and have clearer guidelines, as well as the inclusion of faculty feedback, which was not present in the previous policy. Dr. Xu commented about the required GPA criteria for undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Matthew stated the 3.0 GPA is a university-wide requirement and a separate issue, and concerns related to minimum GPA requirements need to be discussed further with Faculty Senate. There being no further questions or comments, the policy was unanimously approved.

7-12 Science Proposal Certification

The proposed 7-12 Science Certification was presented for review. Dr. Kathryn Matthew reported this certification is interdisciplinary covering a variety of sciences (Biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and astronomy) and provides school districts with well-rounded science teachers by allowing them to teach a

variety of science classes instead of one or two. Dr. Matthew also noted that local school districts have requested UHCL offer this program for several years. Dr. Withey commented that the faculty list for the program needs to be updated, as many instructors have been promoted so titles have changed. There being no further questions or comments, the proposed certification was unanimously approved.

School Library and Information Science (SLIS) Certificate

The proposed SLIS Certificate was presented for review. Dr. Matthew advised that the UHCL certificate program consists of four courses (refresher course/continuing education) for librarians who want to stay current in their field. Upon completion of these courses, they would receive a certificate of completion. President Blake questioned the number of hours to receive state certification. It was clarified 18 hours are necessary, and this is done through the State. President Blake noted the librarian role is constantly changing and suggested the next step would be to re-visit the certificate to upskill for a state certification. There being no further comments or questions, the proposed SLIS certificate was approved with one opposed.

Mandatory Academic Counseling Policy (Undergraduate Only)

The proposed Mandatory Academic Counseling Policy (Undergraduate) was presented for review. Dr. Timothy Richardson stated that the proposed policy now states that undergraduate students on academic probation will now meet with their academic advisor as the first point of contact and not the Student Success Center as stated in the previous policy, which will eliminate the “bounce” of going from office to office in the counseling process and working with the student more directly. The academic advisor will determine, based on the student’s needs what resources, if any, to get them back on track. Dr. Heather Kanenberg added that the Faculty Senate was in full support of the new structure and the faculty partnership with the academic advisors in an effort to assist the student in a successful return. President Blake asked if a policy was in place for graduate students. Dr. Richardson advised the Graduate students are supported differently by the four colleges, as not all utilize academic advisors in the same way. Some use faculty advisors. The next step in the process is to work with Faculty Senate in developing a policy specifically for Graduate students. There being no further comments or questions, the proposed policy was unanimously approved.

In-Progress Grade Policy

The proposed In-Progress Grade policy was presented for review. Dr. Samuel Gladden stated there were two main changes to the current policy: 1.) Align the number of hours of graded credit with the number of hours required for the individual capstone. Any hours beyond the required hours will be converted to Credit (C grade or better) and No Credit (C- grade or below). 2.) Removed the sentence, “Additional hours beyond those required for the capstone could be given graded credit with the approval of the Associate Dean.” These changes were made in an effort to standardize the number of hours of credit awarded based on what is required. There being no further questions or comments, the proposed policy was unanimously approved.

Information Items – University Shared Governance Committee Reports

Academic Council

No report presented

Facilities and Support Services Committee

Mr. Eric Herrera reported on behalf of Dr. Chris Ward the FSSC activities noting that the kickoff meeting was held and the Chairs and Co-Chairs for the FSSC Committee and sub-committees (SAUS, Parking & Transportation, Safety) were elected. Mr. Herrera also stated at the last FSSC meeting, an overview was given on current projects and discussion regarding continuation of the Ad-hoc signage committee for the wayfinding project. Next, Mr. Herrera gave a presentation on the Summer COVID projects at the UHCL campus that have been completed or are in progress. Some of the projects include the following:

- Classroom remodels in Bayou Building
- Parking lot striping (Lots G and J) in front and behind Delta building
- Patio Café – new furniture, flooring, lighting and replacement of walk-in cooler/freezer
- New “to go window” installed. Order food through “Boost” App receive email when food is ready
- New event furniture – Garden and Forest Rooms
- Office renovations – University Advancement, OIE and Global Strategies (International Office)
- Center for Engagement Teaching and Learning (CETL) – first floor of the Bayou Building
- Pearland campus – carpet replaced, lights, painting and new flooring.
- New fuel pumps
- Three electric car charging stations and one located at Pearland campus – partnership with Tesla
- New lift station – sewage system
- Hot/Cold water chillers/pipes replaced
- New air filtration system installed campus wide for COVID
- Water fountains replaced with bottle fill option
- Elevators 3 and 4 upgraded – Bayou Building
- Old boardwalk and retention wall in pond replaced
- New wayfinding floating boards installed on all floors and main entrances of Bayou Building
- Shuttle buses – security cameras installed

Mr. Herrera reported Winter projects will be underway soon, and a list of priority items will be discussed, with Mr. Denney presenting a project list to the Core Leadership team for review and final approval of priority items at a future date. President Blake recognized all of the hard work by FMC staff in keeping the COVID case numbers down and urged everyone to recognize and thank them for their efforts. President Blake also reported that the beautification of the campus has been recognized and commented by staff, faculty, and alumni.

University Life Committee

Dr. Christine Walther reported the University Life Committee (ULC) met during the Shared Governance kick off meeting held last month and elected the Chairman. The next ULC meeting will be held tomorrow (Friday, October 9). Dr. McGonagle advised the UC members that this presentation is for informational purposes only and to prepare everyone the policies are forthcoming. Dr. McGonagle added the revision of the HR policies is necessary, as they are outdated and not in alignment with UH System policies. One example is the Ride Out policy and compensation. This policy has not been updated for some time and was an issue during Hurricane Harvey. Dr. McGonagle advised the HR policies will be brought to University Council in mass for approval and not one or two at a time in an effort to quickly update them. Dr. McGonagle added the updating process will include taking the SAMs policy and applying UHCL verbiage. Most of the HR policies have already been vetted through Legal, and this will help in expediting the update process. Mr. Denney commented that the HR policies are largely dictated by law and there will rarely be any changes between the UH system and

UHCL. Mr. Denney emphasized that academic and other UHCL policies will not be the same as UH System, and a lot of work will be required for shared governance committees in order to get the policies current which is especially important due to the upcoming accreditation.

Planning and Budget Committee

Dr. Tim Michael reported the PBC met briefly to elect the Chair for the Committee. He noted the next big task for the committee is to prepare for the Financial Open Forum on the budget which will be presented on October 27, 2020 immediately following the President's State of the University address. The committee will be gathering questions from faculty senators to determine and narrow down the topics of most interest and others to be discussed at the open forum. Mr. Denney added the presentation will be posted on the Administration and Finance website to access later if anyone is unable to participate virtually or in-person on October 27.

President's Report

President Blake acknowledged everyone for the hard work being done collectively in managing the COVID-19 situation and appreciation for everyone following health and safety protocols. Case numbers are down and, overall, UHCL faculty, staff and students are doing a good job practicing good safety/health practices. The Vice-Presidents and Supervisors will be discussing moving from Code 1 status to Code 2 status and how to address the in-person staffing/support for the anticipated slight increase in students on campus. The change in status is projected to occur October 15-22. Staff with extenuating circumstances who wish to remain working remotely will need to speak with their supervisors for approval.

Students and faculty have expressed their appreciation for the ability to be on campus and attend in-person classes. The Provost and team have increased the capacity of the computer labs and are currently in the process of opening the second floor of the library and designating spaces for studying and computer use while staying consistent with safety and health protocols. The student safety ambassadors have been doing an excellent job monitoring compliance with safety protocols. Other in-person access scheduled to open by appointment only include: Health Center, Writing Center, Math Center and Student Advising. Further discussion will occur with the Provost, Deans and VP for Student Affairs prior to the opening of the centers.

UHCL has received a legislative request from the Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations through the UH System Provost for information related to diversity efforts by all Texas Institutes of Higher Education. Survey responses are due November 23, 2020, and Provost Berberich and team are currently working on gathering this information.

President Blake commented on the Executive Order by President Trump to prevent universities training in diversity or risk loss of financial aid. President Blake noted that this order does not prevent the university from continuing to hold equity training workshops, orientation or deter us from our way of thinking. UHCL will continue with its inclusion efforts going forward.

President Blake acknowledged Mr. Al Black and team for all his work/efforts related to COVID-19 and establishing a third mobile testing site on campus to support the area.

UHCL has been designated as an official polling location for early voting and election day voting.

State of the University Address will be held on 11/27/2020 (virtually).

Tier II of Strategic Planning is in process and making good progress. President Blake acknowledged and thanked everyone involved for their participation. As a result of the Tier II Strategic Planning process, UHCL will be hosting a Presidential Speaker Series beginning on October 30, 2020. Original speakers are being brought back to participate in the series, including, Dr. Chris Dede, Peter Bishop and Jennifer Jarratt.

The UHCL Student Health Administration team are the first-place winners of the Spring 2020 National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) case competition out of 37 other nationwide institutions that participated.

For the Good of the Order

Dr. Hart - Reiterated the honor of UHCL serving as a polling location for both early and election day voting. We should be proud of this unique opportunity.

Dr. Pedro - Reported that Dr. Preeti Jain received the Teacher Educator of the Year award by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TXAEYC).

Dr. Berberich – UHCL received a \$250,000 grant from the Greater Texas Foundation for the UTeach program A total of 24 students have already enrolled.

Ms. Evelyn Miralles is being recognized as one of the 100 most influential Latinas in Technology! External Stakeholders want to partner with UHCL and IHAPS.

Next Meeting

November 12, 2020 | 2:00 p.m., Virtual via Teams

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved

Academic Suspension and Reinstatement Policy

7-12 Science Proposal

Mandatory Academic Counseling Policy

School Library and Information Science (SLIS) Certificate

In-Progress Grade Policy