

Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2021 /Zoom / 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Present: see attached sign in sheets

Next meeting: September 1, 2021 /Zoom /1:00-3:00 p.m.

### **Call to Order – Dr. Beavers**

1:01 p.m.

Dr. Beavers began the meeting with a few housekeeping items to assist the 2021-2022 visiting senators and guests in attendance.

### **Approval of Faculty Senate minutes – Dr. Beavers**

Minutes were approved with corrections.

Vote: 25 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain – passed

### **Provost's Office Report – Dr. Steven Berberich**

Dr. Berberich began by thanking and acknowledging all of the challenges and extra work faculty performed this past year. Special thanks were given to the FSEC committee and the three FS president for the extra duties and time spent chairing committees and the key roles they performed engaging with the senior leadership. He is looking forward to continue working with FS in helping students succeed in their goals for graduation.

HSH Dean – Dr. Glen Sandford will be joining UHCL June 1<sup>st</sup> as the Dean for HSH. He thanked Dr. Samuel Gladden and Dr. Christal Seahorn for stepping up to the interim roles and moving the college forward during their time. He also thanked the HSH Deans search committee, co-chairs Dr. Pedro and Dr. Kanenberg, in working to fulfill the short time frame on completing the search. He also thanked all of the faculty, staff, administrators and students that participated in the search process.

Faculty Fellowes – Faculty Fellowes allow faculty to step into administrative roles while continuing to function as faculty. Dr. Renee Lastrapes, the 1<sup>st</sup> Faculty Fellow, was named earlier in the academic year and is currently serving as the SACS Faculty Fellow. After receiving the second round of applications, Dr. Heather Kanenberg has been named the Faculty Affairs Administrative Fellow beginning in the summer and will be working with the Academic Affairs team.

Soaring Hawks Car Parade – Based on the current CDC guidelines the opportunity exists for faculty to come together in person. Academic Affairs in partnership with FSEC is inviting all faculty and staff who have volunteered for the parade to stop by the Patio Café, after the event for some boxed snacks and the chance to say hi, interact with other volunteers and allow Dr. Berberich to say thank you. More information will be sent when available.

COACHE Survey – Two more sessions scheduled by the committee. The committee was thanked for their work and the presentations being held to share the information. This fall, work will continue between administration and FSEC to use the information and feedback obtained from the survey.

Fall Schedule – The final decision will be made in the summer. All indication is showing that the current fall schedule will be available. The Future Operations Planning committee is preparing all

classrooms for the fall. Academic Affairs workgroup is creating an FAQ for faculty. The university will send out information on returning to campus this summer.

The floor was open to questions. No questions were asked.

[Committee Reports are attached. There was discussion about the committee reports as follows:](#)

### **Senate Committee Report – Budget & Facilities – Dr. Stephens**

After reviewing the CUPA data and other universities the committee is suggesting that a CUPA Cohort Comparison Workgroup be created to review institutions similar to UHCL. Questions and discussions occurred.

Vote: 33 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain – passed

### **Senate Committee Report – Governance – Dr. Kanenberg**

A history and rationale was provided for the Academic Policy Development Creating and Maintaining UHCL Academic Affairs Policies (UAAP). The policy was shared on screen for everyone. Possibilities on ways to share the polices was also provided. No questions were asked.

Vote: 26 Yea; 1 Nay; 0 Abstain – passed

### **Senate Committee Report – Curriculum – Dr. Huss-Keeler**

The UHCL certificate policy update was provided. No questions were asked.

### **Senate Committee Report – Faculty Life – Dr. Costello**

Faculty development leave policy revisions was shared on screen. The reasons for the edits was presented and discussed. Questions and discussion occurred.

Vote: 28 Yea; 0 Nay; 1 Abstain – passed

An update was provided for the Workload Workgroup committee. Questions and discussions occurred. Senators are encouraged to reflect and provide their thoughts to the committee.

### **Senate Committee Report – Teaching & Research – Dr. Xu**

The Piper Award Policy and the Academic Honesty Policy was approved at the last Academic Council meeting. The next step is for the policies to be presented to the University Council. The committee was thanked for the work they completed this past year. The policies reflect three years of committee work. The previous Teaching and Research committees were also thanked.

### **Shared Governance Reports – Dr. Ward, Michael, & Walther**

- Facilities & Support Services – Dr. Ward  
Nothing new to report. No questions were asked.
- Planning and Budget – Dr. Michael  
A review of the report was provided. No questions were asked.
- University Life – Dr. Walther  
Nothing to add to the report. No questions were asked.

### **Faculty Senate Elections – Dr. Elizabeth Beavers**

Election information was provided for University Promotion and Tenure FS Representatives (UPTC) and the University Technology Advisory Council, Chair Position (UTAC).

UPTC – Senators were asked to vote through a Qualtrics link for the representatives.

UTAC – One nomination was received. Dr. Jana Willis has agreed to chair the committee. Senators were asked to vote on the nominee.

### **Faculty Senate 2021-2022 Committee Structure – Dr. Paul Withey**

The suggested committee structure was presented to everyone. Senators voted on the proposed structure.

Vote: 29 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain – passed

### **Center for Faculty Development – Dr. Bartsch**

Everyone was thanked for the work they did this past year and a half.

CFD thanks the Teaching and Research Committee for assisting in the selecting the scholarship award winners.

COACHE – meetings will be Thursday. All of the meetings are being recorded and will be posted on the website.

Writing Retreat – Will be on Wednesday 5/12 and Thursday 5/13. Please reach out if you are interested.

Counseling Services will be holding a mental first aid session on May 14. Registration is required by May 12.

Summer Common Reader – Will be meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a copy and are interested in incorporating the book into your class, please reach out to Anne Gessler.

Teaching Academy – There is a possibility that a Teaching Academy will take place this summer for new faculty or faculty with little experience in the classroom.

Faculty Resource Fair – In conjunction with the New Faculty Orientation; a faculty wide resource fair will take place the week before classes begin. COVID guidelines will be followed.

### **Faculty Senate President Update and Announcements – Dr. Beavers**

Dr. Beavers thanked the FSEC committee for their tireless work during the year.

Thanks were given to the senators for their resilience and work completed despite all of the challenges that occurred this year.

A brief list of accomplishments by faculty senate was shared.

Dr. Christine Walther was welcomed as President Elect for the 2021-2022 year.

The floor was open to any comments.

### **Call for Adjournment – Dr. Beavers**

3:07 p.m.

UHCL Faculty Senate  
Committee Reports ~ May 2021

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*Faculty Senate Committees*

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**Budget & Facilities Committee – Brian Stephens, Chair**

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- The Committee met twice in April to discuss CUPA data comparison groups and the budget priorities process. The committee will share a summary of all budget requests with faculty and is generating recommendations for considerations associated with Phase 4 of the President's Equity and Merit pay plan (shared by Dr. Blake in an email dated: March 9).
  - Also discussed has been input from faculty regarding the face to face Faculty Equity Discussion sessions. Committee is planning dialogue and a review of faculty recommendations for updating classroom and lab spaces.
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**Faculty Life Committee – Sarah Costello, Chair**

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- Faculty Life has concluded proposed revisions to the Faculty Development Leave policy, to clarify procedures and eligibility. Committee members were encouraged to share the draft with faculty in their colleges. The proposed changes will be presented for a vote at the May 5 FS meeting.
  - The Workload workgroup is continuing its work. We are reviewing policies from other universities, and will review workload. College level representatives of the Workload workgroup include:
    - COE: Laurie Weaver and RJ Davis
    - COB: Stephen Cotton and Ken Black
    - CSE: Lory Santiago-Vazquez and Paul Withey
    - HSH: Christine Kovic and Amanda Johnston
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**Teaching & Research Committee – Randall Xu, Chair**

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- The T&R Committee met in collaboration with the Center for Faculty Development, Rob Bartsch to assist in evaluating CFD submissions for Faculty Recognition.
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**Curriculum Committee – Becky Huss-Keeler, Chair**

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- The curriculum committee has continued research and work on the framework for developing a UHCL Certificate Policy. While the policy will not be complete by the end of this academic year, efforts are being made to synthesize the work to this point in preparation for next year's FS Committee to continue the progress.
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**Governance Committee – Heather Kanenberg, Chair**

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- The governance committee has a final draft of the edits to the "Formatting, Tracking, Maintaining and Disseminating UHCL Policy Documents" Policy for review and consideration of the senate. The name of the policy is currently: "Policy on Academic Policy Development: Creating and Maintaining UHCL Academic Affairs Policies (UAAP)". The policy has been posted in FS Teams and Governance Committee members have collected, reviewed, and edits made accordingly. Redline and clean copies are provided in the FS May Meeting Packet. This is coming out of committee as supported and will be voted on in Senate on May 5.
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*Shared Governance Committees*

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**The University Life Committee - Christine Walther, Chair**

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- The University Life Committee met on Friday, 4/2. The committee discussed the timeline for University Council approval of HR policies that were updated last semester. SACS will be looking at the policies as part of the reaccreditation process, and the progress made so far should demonstrate that appropriate action has been taken.
  - The committee also discussed the decision to make graduation virtual. The student representatives on the committee were concerned about the process, particularly who was included in decision making. VP Mark Denney clarified that President Blake made the decision based on recommendations from the emergency management advisory group. VP Denney also said that options for holding in-person graduation were investigated, including using space at UH. The student representatives will discuss additional avenues for student voice with the Student Government Association, as well as suggestions for additional safe ways of celebrating graduates.
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**Facilities & Support Services Committee – Chris Ward, Chair**

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- FSSC did not meet last month. Next meeting we will discuss the new sustainable energy program VP Denney is hoping to implement.
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Planning & Budget Committee – Tim Michael, Chair

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- PBC met on in a rescheduled meeting on April 27th to hear a brief summary of each of the proposed spending initiatives from the university divisions. Due to technology limitations, we were unable to share presentations between the attendees so members were asked to separately review again the Zoom presentations and their Powerpoint versions and to rate the spending priorities according to their stated alignment with the university's new strategic plan. *Those ratings will be aggregated and shared with University Council at its 5/13 meeting.* At the April meeting the group was asked to vote to approve a new, optional fee for required insurance for students who are in the study abroad program. Additionally, we were asked to vote to approve a new minimum for the meal plan for on-campus students, increasing that amount from a \$1000 balance to a \$1,400 balance. Mr. Denney also mentioned that Patio Cafe will undergo an upgrade and remodeling this summer related to the long-term goal of having a more traditional food service option on campus. Both of these changes were approved by the committee and will now go to University Council.
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<b>Senators</b>		
<b>Present</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
✓	Elizabeth	Beavers
✓	Sheila	Baker
✓	Amber	Brown
✓	Sarah	Costello
✓	Thomas	Cothern
✓	Maria	Curtis
✓	RJ	Davis
✓	Anton	Dubrovskiy
✓	Kathleen	Garland
✓	Leslie	Gauna-Gago
✓	Vicky	Gu
✓	Youssef	Hamidi
✓	Khondker S.	Hasan
✓	Rebecca	Huss-Keeler
✓	Daniel	Imrecke
✓	Heather	Kanenberg
✓	Angela	Kelling
✓	Anna	Klyueva
✓	Joseph	McCormack
✓	Timothy	Michael
✓	Jordan	Mitchell
✓	Alfredo	Perez-Davila
✓	Roberta	Raymond
	Wanalee	Romero
✓	Randy	Seevers
✓	Haeyoung	Shin
✓	Brian	Stephens
✓	Walter	Thompson
✓	Christine	Walther
✓	Christopher	Ward
✓	Sharon	White (Andrews)
✓	Paul	Withey
	Dawit	Woldu
✓	Zhaohui	Xu
✓	Faiza	Zalila

<b>Administration</b>		
<b>Present</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
✓	Robert	Bartsch
✓	Steven	Berberich
	Ira	Blake
	Mark	Denney
✓	David	Garrison
✓	Samuel	Gladden
	Miguel	Gonzalez
	Kara Marie	Hadley-Shakya
	Aaron	Hart
	Dorothy	Kirkman
✓	Kathryn	Matthew
	Vivienne	McClendon
	Joan	Pedro
	Scott	Richardson
✓	Timothy	Richardson
✓	Christal	Seahorn
	Felix	Simieou
✓	Edward	Waller
	Lee	Young

<b>Guest</b>		
<b>Present</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
✓	Neal	Dugre
✓	Leticia	French
✓	Janice	Newsom
✓	Desi	Rios
✓	Leroy	Robinson
✓	Xiaojun	Shan
✓	Ishaq	Unwala
✓	Joseph	Staley