

Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020 /Zoom / 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Present: see attached sign in sheets

Next meeting: February 3, 2020 /Zoom /1:00-3:00 p.m.

Call to Order – Dr. Beavers

Approval of Faculty Senate minutes – Dr. Beavers

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Provost's Office Report – Dr. Steven Berberich

Faculty recognition – Thanks were given to all the senators for the work they have completed this year as senators and as faculty. He would like to partner with FS on how to recognize faculty and the work they have done during the pandemic.

HSH Dean's search – The committee started this week with listening sessions for faculty, staff, and constituents.

Faculty hires – Work is continuing with Deans and Department Chairs on faculty replacements and new hires and moving them through the system.

Faculty Workload – He is looking forward to work with FS on faculty workload. They will be working with the colleges to gather the data. The hope is to have the report in February which was outlined in a previous meeting.

SU Policy/Pandemic Academic Withdrawal– A brief overview of the policy and why it was presented to senate was provided. Senates recommendation has been received. FSEC and Academic Council met to discuss the policies and senate recommendations. Discussion on equity and challenges with the policies occurred. It was noted the recommendations to support students academically with the Pandemic Academic Withdrawal policy will be sent to Dr. Blake. The goal is to send students the information by tomorrow at the latest.

Student support – Dr. Richardson is working with Deans, Chairs and faculty to increase support for students.

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

Senate Committee Report – Budget & Facilities – Dr. Stephens

The committee discussed FY21 initiatives at the November meeting. They are also discussing additional merit for the FY21 initiatives.

Budget Task Force – Dr. Stephens mentioned that several committee members are also on the task force.

Senate Committee Report – Governance – Dr. Kanenberg

The committee did not meet in November and are not scheduled to meet in December due to lack of agenda items.

The substantive policy change passed the Curriculum Committee.

Senate Committee Report – Curriculum – Dr. Huss-Keeler

Duolingo Proposal

Information about Duolingo was provided to the senate. The committee, Dr. Do and Dr. McClendon were available to answer questions.

A motion was submitted to amend the language of the policy.

Vote: 29 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain – motion to amend language passed

Policy with amendment

Vote: 30 Yea; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain – passed as amended

Senate Committee Report – Faculty Life – Dr. Raymond

Faculty Availability Policy - Committee met to discuss the feedback received from senate. They are still working on the policy and hope to have something ready for senate soon.

Senate Committee Report – Teaching & Research – Dr. Xu

Academic Probation Counseling for Graduate Students – Rational for the policy was provided. Discussion on the policy, language and possible workload increase for the Academic Advisors occurred. Dr. Richardson would like his team work with the committee on this policy. The policy will go back to the committee for further discussion.

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

- Facilities & Support Services – Dr. Ward
Committee meet to discuss office moves.

HSH will be submitting a proposal to expand the Academic Advising offices at the next meeting.

- Planning and Budget – Dr. Michael
The committee met and discussed the responses from the Open Forum. The response and chat to the Open Forum has been posted online.

They discussed the legislative action request that was revised in October.

Key items on the budget calendar and initiatives were also discussed.

A link to the next meeting will be posted on the Faculty Senate Teams site for senators if they would like to attend the meeting.

- University Life – Dr. Walther

The committee voted to endorse the diversity statement that was endorsed by Faculty Senate in November.

The committee voted on a host of HR policies that will go to University Council.

The committee received an update on Freedom of Expression from Dean Rachita and how he plans to follow up on.

Center for Faculty Development – Dr. Bartsch

Will be hosting a series titled Sharing our Successes: Preparing for Spring Teaching. The series will focus on the successes and tips and tricks used by faculty during the fall semester. Each session will be on Tuesday from 2:00-3:00 on 12/8, 12/15, 1/5 and 1/12. during the break for preparing for spring semester. Each session will have different topics that include Creating Classroom Community; Connecting with Students; Being Fair and Compassionate with Students; Holding Students Accountable; . A google document will be created for faculty to add additional information.

Update on Texas Library Coalition – Dr. McClendon

Dr. McClendon provided an update on TLCUA. The coalition is working together to negotiate with publishers on their escalating prices, greater ownership for faculty work, meaningful cost reduction, Access will not be lost but may take longer to get the material. They will be offering session and working with the Center for Faculty Development. Discussion on how this affects faculty and students occurred.

Faculty Senate President Update and Announcements

FSEC is working behind the scenes trying to promote faculty voice, morale, student concerns, effective communication, etc.

There has been two follow up meetings to discuss the letter sent on merit pay. Administration is receptive to continue dialogue.

UH Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12/3/2020. Registration is not required to attend. The link to the meeting was shared. Each month UFAC, which consists of faculty senate presidents from UH systems meet monthly to discuss shared challenges across the instruction. Dr. Beavers provided a statement on behalf of UHCL Faculty Senate that will be presented by the UFAC president during the meeting.

Campus morale remains an issue. Dr. Beavers would like faculty to share ideas on how this can be addressed.

There will be an informal gathering of faculty after the car parade. Faculty are encouraged to attend and decompress.

2021 Legislative Session Preview will be held Wednesday, December 9, 2020 from 7-8 p.m. at the Pearland campus

Faculty Senate presidents have been working with the Provost, Mr. Denney, Lisa Hudson Romano on a draft policy for the format-tracking policy

They are working on getting an update on the policies that have passed and not passed in the past year.

Surveys –

Faculty Survey - 142 faculty have completed the survey. It is encouraged that more faculty complete the survey to have a better representation of the faculty.

Student Survey – 1000 students have completed the survey.

The floor was open to questions and comments on topics and issues that should be addressed by faculty senate as they move forward.

Call for Adjournment – Dr. Beavers

2:56

UHCL Faculty Senate
Committee Reports ~ December 2020

Faculty Senate Committees

Budget & Facilities Committee – Brian Stephens, Chair

- Committee will discuss the Budget Priorities process and ensuring faculty voice and priorities are represented.

Faculty Life Committee – Roberta Raymond, Chair

The last meeting was held: Meeting: 11-16-20

- Reviewed and discussed feedback from faculty regarding the faculty availability policy
- Worked on revisions to policy

Teaching & Research Committee – Randall Xu, Chair

- The T&R committee drafted and approved the mandatory academic counseling policy in our November meeting. It is ready to be presented to the FS for approval.
- The committee will meet in January to keep revising the Academic Honesty Policy.

Curriculum Committee – Becky Huss-Keeler, Chair

- Next meeting is December 7 from 12:30 -2:00. We will be considering three proposals: Network Security Minor- Dr. Ahmed Abukmail will be presenting that from CSE, Education Abroad Travel Statement regarding insurance requirements and Dr. Bianca Schonberg will be presenting that, and the Academic Appeals Policy renewal.

Governance Committee – Heather Kanenberg, Chair

- We did not meet in November as there were no agenda items for the committee.
- The Substantive Change policy passed unanimously by Academic Council on 11/19/20 with no changes or amendments.
- As a reminder: the Governance Committee will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 10am-11am.

Shared Governance Committees

The University Life Committee - Christine Walther, Chair

- Updates will be provided in the FS meeting

Facilities & Support Services Committee – Chris Ward, Chair

Updates will be provided in the FS meeting

Planning & Budget Committee – Tim Michael, Chair

- Updates will be provided in the FS meeting

Other Important Updates

- Thank you for your service between meetings to focus on the SU and Pandemic Related Administrative Withdrawal policy. A separate email will be sent reporting results of both the FS vote and Faculty Straw Poll.
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Senators		
Present	First	Last
✓	Elizabeth	Beavers
✓	Sheila	Baker
✓	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
✓	Heather	Kanenberg
✓	Angela	Kelling
✓	Anna	Klyueva
	Van	Mayes
✓	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
✓	Sandy	Watson
✓	Sharon	White (Andrews)
✓	Paul	Withey
✓	Dawit	Woldu
✓	Zhaohui	Xu
✓	Faiza	Zalila

Administration		
Present	First	Last
✓	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
✓	Charlotte	Tullos
✓	Edward	Waller

Guest		
Present	First	Last
✓	Gigi	Do
✓	Brian	Heard
✓	Joe	Staley