



University Council Minutes

December 10, 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, LeeBrian Gaskins, 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, Charlotte Tullos

Guests: Lisa Hudson

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Academic Council

Approved in Academic Council, November 19, 2020

Dr. Kathryn Matthew, Associate VP for Academic Affairs, presented two proposals. The first proposal focused on introducing a new minor in Geospatial Sciences and Technologies (GST), an 18-hour course. The second proposal was the Policies and Procedures for Reporting and Monitoring Substantive Change Policy. SACSCOC requires this policy and is closely tracked. A link was provided to access the revised policy. Dr. Matthew provided the definition and examples of what is a substantive change. Examples included adding a new program, auditing off-campus sites, and removing classes from on-campus to online courses. The two proposals were recommended for approval by the Academic Council and Faculty Senate. Motion to approve the proposals passed at University Council.

Dr. Elizabeth Beavers presented the third proposal, Inclusion and Diversity Statement. The proposed language to be included in the course syllabi statement focused on reinforcing the university's values and expectations regarding diversity and inclusion in the learning environment. This proposed language was provided to the committee for approval. Faculty has the option not to use the language in their syllabi or any other university programming; it is not mandatory to use this language. A clean copy of the proposal was sent to University Life to be voted on. A discussion ensued regarding the definition of "partners" in the statement. A recommendation to revise the word "partners" to "collaborators" was agreed upon after discussion with a vote to approve the statement without going back to the committee. The motion in favor of the recommended language passed with one opposition and one abstention.

Information Items – University Shared Governance Committee Reports

Academic Council

No report presented

Facilities and Support Services Committee

No report presented

University Life Committee (ULC)

HR Policies

Dr. Christine Walther, Chair, University Life Committee, presented that the University of Houston System's policies should be adapted and vetted to reflect how we do business at UH-Clear Lake. Dr. McGonagle identified many HR policies that have sunset dates and were out of alignment with the UH System policies. Dr. McGonagle's proposal to University Life was to implement UH System-level policies rather than revising the previous policies that were out of alignment. There are 57 policies requiring updates. After a group discussion, a motion to table this item was passed to give more time to review the policies for accuracy until the next Meeting in February.

Planning and Budget Committee (PBC)

No agenda items

President's Report

President Blake informed the members that each college's deans will join the Core Leadership meetings beginning in January 2021 for one term to enhance internal partnering and communication. President Blake wished everyone a happy holiday and acknowledged the extraordinary work done by everyone.

For the Good of the Order

No Items

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021, | 2:00 p.m., Virtual via Teams

There being no further business, the Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

None