



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

University Council Minutes

February 11, 2021, 2:00 p.m. (Virtual Teams Meeting) | Meeting Called to Order by Ira K. Blake, President

In Attendance

Elizabeth Beavers, Steven Berberich, Dwayne Busby, Sarah Costello, Mark Denney, Miguel Gonzalez, Samuel Gladden, Aaron Hart, Eric Herrera, Esther Herrera, Rebecca Huss-Keeler, Heather Kanenberg, Beth Lewis, Vivienne McClendon, Brad McGonagle, Kathryn Matthew, Timothy Michael, Evelyn Miralles, Joan Pedro, Roberta Raymond, Timothy Richardson, Joseph Staley, Brian Stephens, Edward Waller, Christine Walther, Christopher Ward, Randall Xu; Faiza Zalila, Iliana Melendez, Christal Seahorn, Withey, Paul A., Kevin Wooten, Zhaohui Xu, Lee Young, Faiza Zalila, Scott Richardson, David Rachita, Lisa Hudson Romano

Approval of Minutes

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

Academic Council

Approved in Academic Council, December 17, 2020

Dr. Kathryn Matthew, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented on Duolingo. This web-based proficiency exam provides another option for International students to demonstrate their English proficiency for admissions. This proposal was voted on and passed.

Information Items – University Shared Governance Committee Reports

Academic Council

No report presented

Facilities and Support Services Committee

Mr. Eric Herrera, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Construction (FMC), discussed several projects headed by the department. Current projects to enhance the facilities and grounds at UHCL and Pearland Campuses are underway and include tree trimming and planting new trees along the bike path at UHCL. FMC consulted with the Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) and the native plant society to assist with pruning without causing damage. FMC is also working on installing lights underneath the bridge at UHCL and installing glass panels in the Bayou Building's stairwell doors for safety. Completed projects included the refurbishing of elevators, remodeling of the testing center and classrooms in the Delta Building. The Patio café received a new freezer, and new tables were purchased for use during events. Conversation as to what to do with the old UHCL letterings displayed on campus brought up the idea of the possibility to auction the letters.

FMC will install covers to protect students waiting on the shuttle service and will collaborate with Marcomm to design wraps for the shuttles as a marketing opportunity.

University Life Committee (ULC)

HR Policies

Dr. Christine Walther, University Life committee chair, presented two policies; Authorized Categories of Non-Exempt Compensation and the Promotion, Lateral Transfer, and Demotion of employees policy. ULC adopted both of these policies from the UH System-level policies with no revisions. President Blake recommended a friendly amendment to update the word "beeper" in the policy to the technology used in the 21st Century. Both were voted on and passed with the friendly amendment accepted.

Planning and Budget Committee (PBC)

Mr. Denney stated two fees are up for consideration, one is new, and the other is optional. The Board of Regents will not hear fee proposals at the February meeting; tuition and fees changes will be addressed at the May meeting. A dining fee increase was presented to SGA with the increase rationale. Due to no quorum at the last SGA meeting, the item was not voted on. The Student Dining Advisory Board approved the dining fee proposal. However, this will be brought up again at the next SGA meeting for a vote before the next BOR meeting.

UHCL submitted the following Legislative Appropriation Requests (LAR) for the Senate and the House budget presentations.

1. The appropriations request's first priority was to increase the formula funding to restore it to at least 2011- 2012 levels.
2. Restoration of the 5% given back in FY20 and FY21 at approximately 1.5M per year. The Senate and House did not resort the 5% in their budget proposals.
3. Bring an end to the legislative language from the last legislative session that cuts downward expansion funding by 25% every biennium over the next four bienniums.
4. Additional funding to support Environmental Institute of Houston, CADD, and Cyber Security.

Six universities are collectively acting as one to send a consistent message not to cut expansion funding.

In December, Congress passed second legislative action that provides support for response to the pandemic. The HEERF Funding provided an additional \$10.2 million; 3 million must go to students' financial needs. Some funding will be invested in distanced learning/distanced work. The deadline to spend the funds is December 2021. Unused funds will revert to the federal government.

President's Report

President Blake welcomed Dr. Lee Young, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, to the team.

President Blake informed the members of current searches underway. The Director of Veteran Services, Director for IHAPS, Interim VP for Marcomm, and Associate VP for Student Affairs. UHCL's Virtual Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16. Mr. Joseph Staley, Vice President for University Advancement, is overseeing the virtual event. President Blake will testify before the Finance Committee in Austin on Wednesday, February 24. The Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25.

The RN to BSN Program and the nursing Leadership Program is being offered at the Pearland Campus and creating partnerships with Houston Methodist and HCA Clear Lake Midland. We are working on expanding our

two plus two with Alvin Community College. ACC has gotten the approval of their Engineering Program for an Associate in Science. Once approved by the Coordinating Board, UHCL will align our Mechanical Engineering Program to that degree. The Pearland Campus is working with Lonza, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical agencies, to do a biopharmacology micro certificate. Pearland location is now generating revenue from the new projects implemented.

For the Good of the Order

Mr. Charles Washington, a Houston upcycling artist, has an exhibition featuring indoor, outdoor works in the Art Gallery.

The Police Chiefs Town Hall to be held at the Pearland Campus on February 24. The panelists are four black police chiefs in our area.

The President's Speaker Series: The Big Questions hosted by Dr. Kevin Wooten will be held on April 9 and April 23. Dr. Peter Horteiz will present on April 9 on Public Health Access and Pandemics. On April 23, Dr. Joshua Gordan will present on Mental Health and COVID-19.

Next Meeting

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

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

ACTION ITEMS

None