**FACULTY SENATE**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

**MINUTES (Revised)**

**Members Present**: Magdy Akladios, Carol Carman, Tiffiney Barfield-Cottledge, Joy Bechtold, Stephen Cotten, Chloe Diepenbrock, Kent Divoll, Tom Fox, Jennifer Fritz, David Garrison, Lisa Gossett, Beth Hentges,

Amanda Johnston, Sarah Lechago, Scott McIntyre, Tim Michael, Ivelina Pavlova, Alfredo Perez-Davila, Mohammad Rob, Leroy Robinson, Cheryl Sawyer, Lie June Shiau, Mary Short, Debra Shulsky, Felix Simieou,

Jill Smith, Brian Stephens, Alix Valenti, Chris Ward, Paul Withey, Lei Wu.

**Members Absent**: Bettye Grigsby, Pat McCormack, Rick Puzdrowski, Jana Willis.

**In Attendance:** Darlene Biggers, Samuel Gladden, Mark Shermis, Carl Stockton, Karen Wielhorski,

Yvette Bendeck.

**MINUTES APPROVAL - DECEMBER 03, 2014**

Dr. Divoll asked to include the statement “Concern was raised about sustainable funding for the Accessibility Office” (page 2, C&T Report re the Accessibility Information Policy).

The minutes were approved as amended.

**PROVOST REPORT**

Dr. Stockton announced that in response to requests for faculty salaries equity adjustments, the CUPA Report for Faculty Salaries will be purchased. Over the next month, the Provost Office will use the report to study faculty salaries. The results will be shared with the President and senior leadership. Provost Stockton reiterated that attention will be directed to reviewing faculty salaries equity.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approved the RAND Corporation Report. The report focuses on granting authority to community colleges to offer bachelor’s degrees. The THECB is unable to grant that authority but will recommend approval to the Legislature. The report makes a case for prospective degrees such as Bachelors of Applied Technology, Bachelors of Applied Science and RN-BSN programs. Community Colleges will be required to meet THECB and SACS criteria. The State of Texas Community College Organization supports the initiative. An additional requirement discussed is assessment of partnerships between universities and community colleges to offer those degrees. UHCL recently signed an agreement with Lone Star College to offer the RN-BSN. We will continue to look for opportunities to enter into partnerships for BAS and RN-BSN degrees with community colleges. More information will be provided when this initiative goes to the Legislature.

The Teaching & Learning Enhancement Center (TLEC) Advisory Taskforce identified a group of institutions to contact with questions about their TLEC model. Afterwards, a proposal on a new model for UHCL TLEC will be prepared and submitted to the President.

Finally, Dr. Stockton thanked senate and faculty members involved in formulating Minors. Dr. Stockton reminded members of the policy that requires Minors fit within 120 hours or the approved length of the degree. THECB approval is required for exceptions. Dr. Stockton alluded to additional issues for consideration such as a way for students without prerequisites to obtain Minors; addressing Minors that do not easily fit into programs of study; assessing resource implications and faculty for the new courses in Minors; developing a process for students to get the minor in programs of study.

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Committee**: Dr. Akladios stated the committee will convene on February 16.

**Curriculum & Teaching Committee**: Dr. Mary Short presented the approved Minors from HSH, SCE and SOE to the Senate. C&T reviewed all Minors for adherence to the policy and whether every course was listed in the catalog. New courses will be published in the catalog by fall 2015. A Minor in Statistics was unapproved because the language was vague and the list of requirements was omitted. Dr. Ward asked if there were objections to any of the proposed Minors. There was a suggestion to add prerequisites to the Minors. The Senate concurred on the inclusion of prerequisites. The proposals will be referred to program directors for amendments. Following discussion, the Senate voted and approved Minors pending the addition of prerequisites. The approved Minors are HSH - Anthropology, Art History, Art & Design, Behavior Analysis, Exercise Science, Geography, Geographic Information Systems, Health Promotion, History, Humanities, Latino & Latin American Studies, Literature, Philosophy, Public Service Leadership, Sociology and Youth and Police Studies; SOE - Early Childhood Education, Instructional Practices, Instructional Technology, Special Education, Teacher Education; SCE - Actuarial Science, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Cybersecurity, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Physics and Writing.

**Research Committee**: Dr. Carman announced that the committee will convene after the Faculty Senate meeting.

**Faculty Life Committee (FLC)**: Dr. Divoll stated that FLC plans to address expired policies as well as the Promotion & Tenure, Grievance, and Misconduct policies.

**SHARED GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Facilities & Support Services Committee (FSSC)**: Dr. Pavlova reported that FSSC will meet in two weeks. The SAUS and Parking subcommittees are active. She asked members to alert her of any parking or space issues for FSSC to address.

**Planning & Budgeting Committee (PBC)**: Dr. Simieou stated that Optional and Course Related Fees were approved. Other fees approved include orientation, advising and reinstatement fees.

**University Life Committee**: Dr. Hentges reported that discussion continued on the hand sanitizers project. Sanitizers are located in the Bayou Building 1st floor lounge (near vending machines), and in the Delta Building. ULC is working on creating surveys to determine childcare needs. ULC discussed the proposal for creation of a UHCL Women’s Council. ULC members agreed to take the proposal to their constituencies for approval. ULC will vote on the proposal at the next meeting.

**QEP REPORT**

There was no report

**TRANSCRIPT NOTATION FOR COURSE MODALITY**

Dr. Ward reintroduced the resolution for reflecting class modality as “either face-to-face, partially online or fully online” on student transcripts. Dr. Gossett said that in order for international students to maintain status it makes a difference whether their courses are >50% or <50% online. She felt that it would be best to designate >50% or < 50%. Dr. Sawyer expressed concern that this notation could be harmful to SOE students. Dr. Gladden suggested placing a code on a legend on the transcript. Dr. Michael commented that the purpose of the notation is full disclosure and it would address recurring requests for this information. Also, accounting students can only have a specific number of online credits before taking the CPA exam. The notation would provide information to employers and scholarship providers who do not pay for online courses. Students can always self-report but transparency would be helpful. Dr. Divoll remarked that designations could potentially raise questions regarding quality of online vs face-to-face classes. Dr. Mohammad pointed out the need to consider how designations will be perceived and the future implications for UHCL. Dr. Gossett asked if there was any analysis of experiences of other institutions regarding this issue. Dr. Bendeck responded that the current standard is that most universities have no modality notation on transcripts. The assumption has been that quality is the same because the same faculty teach those courses. Dr. Robinson commented that designation may put students at a disadvantage in the job market. The reality is that there is a perception on quality of online classes. Dr. Michael stressed that according to State of Texas law, online courses and face-to-face with the same rubric and catalog descriptions have to be the same. He emphasized that it would be helpful to constituents if designation information was provided. There was a motion and second to conduct a secret ballot on the resolution. The motion passed. The Senate proceeded to vote on the resolution. The resolution failed with 10 votes to approve and 20 votes against.

**FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

Dr. Ward presented proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution. He asked senators to review, refer to constituents and provide feedback for discussion at the next meeting. The rationale for amending the constitution came out of a work group of the faculty retreat. The work group discussed the shared governance and faculty senate structures and noted positive practices at UH Central that could be emulated. Dr. Garrison, a co-chair of this work group said the group agreed to look at how the Senate works with upper administration at UH Central as their system worked well. Dr. Ward summarized the parts to be amended. One of the changes highlighted is the creation of undergraduate and graduate education councils, a common structure at universities. Provost Stockton stated that he needs to review the implications of the recommended changes on other shared governance committees. He asked for a red line version with proposed changes to the constitution. Dr. Ward will send email the red line copy to senators and Provost Stockton. There were several requests for more dialogue and review of the changes. Dr. Ward asked senators to share this information with constituents and be prepared to continue deliberations at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Hentges announced that there have been complaints from HSH faculty regarding issues with Blackboard. UCT advised faculty to file a report regarding the issues. She asked senators to inform UCT of similar concerns.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.