**FACULTY SENATE**

**September 6, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Rashid Bazlur, Elizabeth Beavers, Carol Carman, Stephen Cherry, Caroline Crawford, Thomas Garcia, Lisa Gossett, Rajib Hasan, Rebecca Huss-Keeler, Amanda Johnston, Michelle Kahn, Heather Kanenberg, Nick Kelling, Hakduran Koc, Frank Matthews, Pat McCormack, Denise McDonald, Tim Michael, Alex Milam, Alfredo Perez-Davila, Michelle Peters, Thomas Schandling, Cengiz Sisman, Brian Stephens, Ishaq Unwala, Christine Walther, Paul Withey, Faiza Zalila

**Absent**: Amber Brown, Pradeep Buddharaju, Mike McMullen, Troy Voelker

**Others Present**: Robert Bartsch, Darlene Biggers, Ira Blake, Samuel Gladden, Glen Houston, Ju Kim, Mark Shermis, Rick Short

**MINUTES APPROVAL – MAY 03 MEETING**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**NEW PRESIDENT INTRODUCTION/WELCOME**

Dr. Ira Blake introduced herself and extended her condolences and well wishes to faculty who have been negatively affected by Hurricane Harvey. She gave an update from the latest meeting she had with Emergency Management and would like to acknowledge and celebrate the culture of helpfulness and kindness within our campus and community.

Dr. Blake shared with Faculty Senate her plan to institute ‘Open Hours’ in the President’s Office. During these hours faculty and staff are invited to stop by and share ideas and opinions with her. There will be more to come about Open Hours via email. She also shared with faculty a summarized list of her leadership values and what everyone can expect.

1. Everyone will be professional and respectful.
2. Functional roles, rather than ‘positions and titles’ will be valued. It is important for us all to look at who has the expertise to handle certain issues that arise, and use their experience to reach a reasonable solution.
3. Dr. Blake labeled herself a ‘walk-about person’. She is the type of communicator that will walk around to visit offices and talk to coworkers in person, if the situation will allow. Please do not be caught off-guard if she drops in to visit.
4. Collaboration is a strong belief for us all to do better work. Diverse perspectives yield better outcomes.
5. Those who are experts in their field should be heard. Help make decisions and solutions workable with your knowledge. You stepping forward to offer your expert opinions doesn’t mean you will always win out, however your expertise NEEDS to be considered.
6. Dr. Blake expressed that she loves to listen and question. She exerted that, in her experience, this is the best way to grow our good decision-making for UHCL.
7. Innovative and creative ideas are valued. Just because we have always done it that way, doesn’t mean we have to.
8. Communicating information in a relevant way is a high priority. It is important that material is meaningfully presented as opposed to just emailing documents back and forth.

The Senate warmly welcomed Dr. Blake and let her know that we are all glad she is here.

**PROVOST’S REPORT**

Dr. Houston welcomed everyone back from the summer. He also welcomed faculty back from Hurricane Harvey and stated that he is happy to hear most of our UHCL family came out okay. He wanted to make everyone aware that there are a few of our coworkers who have lost everything. Dr. Houston asks that everyone please continue to be understanding and kind during this time, especially to those who have lost their homes and other living necessities.

At this time, Dr. Houston thanked Dr. Lisa Gossett for her excellent service as Faculty Senate President last year. Dr. Brian Stephens also received a thank you for beginning his service as current President.

Dr. Houston announced that, the matter of our students, he asks that faculty continue to exercise compassion and flexibility. Some of our students have lost everything as well and are missing the first week of classes. Please work with your class members. Textbooks have been delayed for numerous reasons. Please go to the bookstore and put books on e-reserve for your students. Help them to be successful. Dr. Houston asks that faculty be aware of the various resources that are being offered directly to UHCL students and direct them to the proper help, if needed. The Office of the Dean of Students has many resources provided for students, so this is a good place to start if anyone is need of hurricane-related assistance. UHCL’s Office of Advancement has also started a Hawk Emergency Fund, using donations from community members, which will go to students in need. Dr. Houston reminded faculty that the use of Blackboard, if possible, will be helpful during these times. He confirmed that no makeup classes are required since we returned back on September 5th (before 9/6).

Dr. Houston shared with Faculty Senate that the Nursing program has now received accreditation.

Dr. Houston reported that the THECB has rejected our BS in Mechanical Engineering proposal. A meeting was held to discuss the areas needing improvement. The revised proposal has been submitted.

Dr. Houston remarked that the STEM and Recreation/Wellness buildings are on schedule with construction. There is a 24-hour webcam available on our website to witness the progress.

Dr. Houston informed the faculty that the Pearland campus took on 3-4” of water during the hurricane. He wants to thank UHCL’s FMC crew and our partners at Alvin Community College for the good job they have done drying everything out. Staff offices are still wet and the Library is still working to get everything back in order, The Pearland campus will continue to be a work in progress for the meantime, but recovery is in progress, thanks to these folks’ hard work.

Dr. Houston brought to everyone’s attention that our first freshman class will be graduating in the spring. He asked for Faculty Senate’s help in reviewing the current approach to awarding honors (based on percentages) and making recommendations for an improved approach for doing honors calculations on GPA as appropriate.

**AWARD PRESENTATION**

Dr. Blake presented a thank you plaque to Dr. Gossett on behalf of Dr. Staples, the University, and herself to thank her for her hard work and dedication as last year’s Faculty Senate President. Members of the Senate remarked what a great job she did. Dr. Gossett thanked all committees for their work ethic last year, as well.

**FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

The only change that has been made to the distributed Senate Committees Assignments is the addition of Caroline Crawford serving for College of Education on the Faculty Life committee. The College of Business will be holding an election for their final representatives for the Budget, Teaching and Research, Faculty Life, and Governance committees.

**SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE**

The motion was passed to reauthorize the Senate Ad Hoc Committees dealing with online proctoring and testing. Dr. Tim Michael reported that the Committee has still been active prior to the vote today.

The motion to form and authorize an Ad Hoc Committee to improve recruitment, websites, and communications. The motion passed with no opposition.

**FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Committee**: Dr. Withey reported that the Committee has not met this semester yet. One of the things they will be discussing in their first meeting is the faculty salary comparison to other similar higher education institutions to make sure that faculty are receiving, and will continue to receive, fair compensation. Other budgetary issues will also be discussed.

**Teaching & Research Committee**: Dr. Elizabeth Beavers reported that the Committee was able to briefly meet prior to the Senate meeting today and will continue their meeting after adjournment. They are looking at some of the initiatives that were started last year, such as the Faculty Spotlight Researcher and communications/website issues. One issue is the accessibility of that web page. Dr. Beavers met with Dr. Rob Bartsch with the Center for Faculty Development (CFD) a few weeks ago. They discussed several collaborations involving Teaching & Research, Office of Sponsored Programs, and the CFD. They are currently looking at exploring faculty expertise to optimize collaboration for grants and faculty development programs. They will also be collaborating with the COACHE Committee to address faculty recognition needs.

**Faculty Life Committee**: Dr. Heather Kanenberg reported that she is excited to welcome the new members and warned them, with a smile, about what they are getting into. The Committee will be working on on-going projects from last year. They are hoping to have a policy for Promotion and Tenure ready for review of the Senate in October. The next policy will be Grievances and Appeals and, simultaneously, Faculty Workload. The Ad Hoc Committee has turned in their research about Faculty Workload, so they are ready to proceed now. This is expected to be a busy year for Faculty Life policies.

**Curriculum and Teaching Committee (C&T)**: Dr. Amanda Johnston reported that the Committee has not met this semester yet. Three of the major topics they will be discussing are decided for the first meeting. The first subject is to do with program proposals coming to them from the different colleges. Second, they will be looking at upper-level credit hour requirements for graduates. Lastly, they will be discussing the process for students to earn a dual bachelor’s/master’s degrees.

**SHARED GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Facilities & Support Services Committee (FSSC)**: No updates from Committee at this time.

**Planning & Budgeting Committee (PBC):** No updates from the Committee at this time.

**University Life Committee (ULC)**: No updates from the Committee at this time.

**SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Faculty Workload Committee**: No reports from the Committee at this time.

**QLT UPDATE**

Dr. Browning reported that all trainings for this spring are complete and they are busy planning for next year.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS/MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018**

UHCL has set up a ‘one stop shop’ for anyone associated with the University that has been affected by Hurricane Harvey. Please let your classes know and direct them there if they are in need of assistance.

UHCL is also promoting their Ride-Share program for faculty, staff, and students who are left without vehicles or transportation to get to class or work. Dr. Stephens will email out the link for the Ride-Share site after the meeting.

For more UHCL Hurricane Harvey resources, please visit the social media sites that have been set up, as well. There is now a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, all dedicated the Hurricane Harvey help for our UHCL community.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The issue was brought up of President Trump’s DACA announcement. This is an issue that is very important for Faculty Senate and the State. An Ad Hoc Committee may be started to support our DACA students, depending on what other campuses are doing. Dr. Stephens will look into what other campuses are doing in the next week. The formation of the Committee will be discussed at the next FSEC Meeting. Yvette Bendeck reported that students are concerned and have been stopping by the Diversity Office to talk about their options. These students are frightened right now and are not wanting to be exposed to the public. She informed Dr. Stephens and the Senate that she knows of several resources that we may be able to provide to our undocumented students. Dr. Frank Matthews wants the Committee to know that this should be seen as a real opportunity to make a difference with political matters that affect higher education, such as this. Dr. Blake reported that she is also preparing a statement and the Office of General Counsel is looking at what we can do.

Dr. Stephens announced that Dr. Houston has been great with transparency and information dissemination. Dr. Blake is expected to also be excellent in this area. Please keep in mind, whether you are new faculty, or otherwise, that these offices are good resources for all of us.

**CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT (CFD)**

Dr. Rob Bartsch announced that the Center for Faculty Development will now be housing the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Cohort 6 recruitment is coming up, so please be on the lookout for emails regarding this.

CFD is hosting the first of three Learning Innovators tomorrow, September 7th, 12-1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Club. All meetings will now be open discussion for faculty. Pizza and beverages are served.

The Writing Center has partnered with CFD to host a Faculty and Staff Discussion Group about The Meaningful Writing Project: Learning, Teaching, and Writing in Higher Education. They are bringing in Michele Eodice to facilitate the event with our own Travis Webster. This will be next Friday,

The meeting adjourned at 2:02P.