Meeting Called to Order: 9:06 am

Welcome – Bernie Streeter, PASA President

Topic: University Updates

Dr. William Staples, UHCL President:

Looking ahead:

- Fall 2014 profile of freshmen and sophomores compared to fall 2015. All the measures and numbers show that it was a very successful transition. The transition has been a major accomplishment by faculty and staff.

- Not too far away from the next legislature session
  - The 2015 Texas legislature was very good for UHCL as we got funding for many developments.
  - The upcoming legislature session does not seem like it will be as good. It appears that it will be flat due to the drop in oil prices and sales tax.
  - Two things to watch for:
    1. In January the State Comptroller will give assessment and then he will come back and give his revised amount by April. In the last legislative session, they did not spend the amount they could have. This means there is a “cushion of money”. Also, the “rainy day” fund. Base funding (formula funding, tuition and fees) continues to grow.
    2. Campus Carry: universities have some authority to define areas of exclusion where people may not have firearms. The proposal will be sent to the Board of Regents in May 2016 and they will either approve or not. It goes into effect August 2016. The proposal cannot say that there will be no guns in the classroom but instead where children may be present. Signs will be posted for exclusion zones. Private universities can opt-out, public universities cannot.

Michelle Dotter, VP of Accounting and Finance:

- We are in a good budget position:
  - We funded about 5 million dollars’ worth of priorities. Funding comes through formula funding. Money was set aside during 2016.
  - Increase in Higher Ed. Assistance Fund which will provide for Rec. Center building.
  - Successful in getting 2/3’s of funding for Pearland building.
  - The police building construction is moving forward with an estimated completion time of June or July.
  - The STEM building is also underway, as well as the Rec. Center.
  - An access road will also be built.
  - A housing feasibility study is also underway and a decision will be made in July.
  - There will be renovations to the Patio Café.
  - All buildings are scheduled for fall 2018.
  - There is a possibility of merging the PASA and SSA organizations. There will be a survey that goes out, be sure to participate.
  - There is also a possibility of doing summer hours.

Dr. Staples:

- Academic Affairs:
  - We got approval for a third doctoral degree, PsyD.
  - In working with UH-Main, SCE has developed a Pre-Engineering track. In addition, a proposal has been made to offer a Mechanical Engineering bachelor’s degree.

Closing Remarks: Vanessa Cubides, President-Elect of SSA:

- There will be an invitation to the luncheon in May, need volunteers.
- SSA Scholarships: need volunteers.
- PASA & SSA becoming one: there are for and against arguments. A survey will go out to express your for or against opinion.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am

Visit PASA at www.uhcl.edu/pasa
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