

**Report of the UHD Faculty Senate President**  
For February 3, 2009

I reserve the right to update or highlight issues during the meeting. **However, anything in these notes is fair game for follow-up questions and comment during the meeting or directly with me.** Once the Senate has met, these notes, along with any comments/updates/corrections, will become part of the Senate minutes. [For highlights, read the **red font.**]

*1. Workload Policy*

**Dr. Castillo has consulted with the Faculty Affairs Committee about some adjustments in the proposed Workload Policy; as I understand it, he remains fully committed to the 4/3 teaching load, but has asked that we remove the financial exigency clause from the policy and consider a Fall, 2010 implementation date.** Thus, while we would not have an option to start the 4/3 in Fall, 2009, in the future, the teaching load would not be the first recourse in times of financial exigency. In addition to the exigency, the policy has come back with proposed changes in the compensation for graduate-level independent studies. The AAC passed the policy with 7 independent studies counting for 1 graduate course, with an option for prorating the pay for each one. I believe we have been asked to reconsider and use a 10:1 ratio without a prorating option. **Faculty Affairs will discuss the options and send their new proposal forward to the Academic Affairs Council. There is a strong sense among all parties that this policy is a priority, and we hope to achieve resolution soon.**

*2. Name Change*

The vote based on the top 10 names has concluded and a final report with 5 unranked names has been sent via Dr. Castillo to the Board of Regents [Ms. Davis sent the report to DT\_ALL this afternoon (Monday)]. The numerical summary data from the vote were reviewed by the majority of the Name Selection Leadership Group last Wednesday (Jan 28); the group identified the final 5 names, with “University of South Texas” ranked first and “University of Southeast Texas” ranked second by the group. However, the group was unable to finish the task of developing the content (pros/cons) for the final report. Volunteers were asked to meet on Thursday morning to finish the task; I understand that 5-6 were able to do so. That smaller group reported back to some other group members who were able to attend a Thursday afternoon meeting (which I attended for only part of that time). Apparently more changes were proposed by the Thursday folks, leading to another small-group drafting session. That small subgroup wrote all the text and formatted the final version that was sent out.

I have asked that the actual numerical breakdown of votes among constituent groups be made publicly available; the leadership group saw the data, but only in hard copy form. [One quick note on numbers: in the faculty vote, University of South Texas earned 56 1<sup>st</sup>-place votes and University of Southeast Texas earned 69 1<sup>st</sup>-place votes; however, the student vote was heavily weighted toward University of South Texas.]

**The name decision will be made/finalized at the BOR meeting on Friday, February 6, 1:00pm, Flamingo Room, UH Hilton.**

I offer one personal reflection: I am distressed that numerous aspects of the planning, data gathering, data analysis, and report writing in this name change/selection process have contradicted the research, writing, and teaching practices that we endorse as members of an open, academic, educational community. We may not have another name change in our future, but there will be other issues that require full community engagement and representation – better methods must be developed.

### ***3. Conference on Student Success***

**Reminder: UFEC is hosting a conference here at UHD on March 27 – see the website for registration, abstract submission, and other details. Even if you are not planning to present, but would like to attend, we ask that you pre-register so we can get a sense of numbers.**

### ***4. Search for Academic Assessment Director***

**The Search Committee has been appointed:**

Linda Becerra (CMS), Ron Beebe (UE), Anita Chadha (SOS), Ariana Mrak (AH), Marvin Williams (FACIS), and Trey Williams (CJ)

*Submitted by Michelle Moosally*