

# UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Michael Cavanaugh  
November 6 2018 2:35-4:00 pm  
UHD A-300

**Senate:** Hsiao-Ming Wang, Susan Henney, Michael Cavanaugh, Beverly Alford, Susan Baker, Ray Cao, Kristen Capuozzo, Stephanie Coleman, David Epstein, Shannon Fowler, Angela Goins, Felicia Harris, Cynthia Lloyd, Steve London, Stephen Miller, Mitsue Nakamura, Rebecca Quander, Vida Robertson, Rachna Sadana, Joseph Sample, Johanna Schmertz, Nell Sullivan, Jace Valcore, Pat Williams, Zehai Zhou

**Absent:** Michael Duncan (FFL), Maria Benavides, Karen Kaser, Laura Mitchell, Andrew Pavelich, Ting Zhang

**Guests:** Juan Munoz, President; Ed Hugetz, Provost/VPAA; David Bradley, VPAF; Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds; Darlene Hodge, FS Admin; Pat Ensor, Library Director; Lucy Bowen, Director SI; Hoseein Shahrokhi, AVP IT; Ed Cueva, Professor; Creshema Murray, Assistant Professor; Michelle Moosally, Associate Professor; Isidro Grau, Director ASC; Mark Cervenka, Associate Professor and Director of O'Kane Gallery; Tim Klein, Associate Professor and Director of O'Kane Theatre; Azar Rejaie, Chair of Arts and Communication; William Nowak, Associate Professor; Christopher Blank, Student; Steve Bonario, Library; Paul Mandell, Associate Professor

**Call to order:** The Senate was called to order at 2:35 pm by Senate President Hsiao-Ming Wang.

## Minutes

Minutes of October 16, 2018 Senate meeting were approved unanimously.

## Reports

President Munoz was here to give a report on the state of the university. He mentioned that he planned to come to the Senate once a month for a short presentation to talk about major initiatives going on at UHD.

President Munoz was happy to announce that Dr. Link accepted the Provost position after a very good interview with the whole university. Dr. Link's current university (Purdue University - Fort Wayne) and former university (University of Memphis) were very similar to UHD in different ways so he can bring that experience to UHD to help propel us forward. President Munoz mentioned that the process to hire a Provost usually takes much longer and the typical hire starts in the fall, but with the legislative session starting in the spring, all sides wanted move quickly. Dr. Link will take over in January with Mr. Hugetz here and the legislative session going on.

President Munoz also wanted to discuss the TXDot I10/I45 project that will impact UHD in the coming years (see attached slides). He called the project generational and something that had been discussed for 30+ years but is only now coming to fruition. The project will be done in segments that will each take years to complete. Segment 3 will be the one that really impacts UHD and it is estimated to last

3.5-4 years once it starts. The construction will likely cause UHD to lose parking and cause traffic delays. As a 100% commuter campus, this may pose problems for us.

President Munoz also mentioned the new proposed Student Wellness and Success Center. The old student center was designed years ago for 7,000 students and the new center will reflect our current population. The university will be asking legislative approval for a new student fee to be assessed to pay for the center. President Munoz is also optimistic in the legislative session as we are modest in what we are asking for and everything is in line with the UHD mission. President Munoz then turned the presentation over to Mr. David Bradley to discuss parking.

Q - Is the parking committee discussing raising rates?

A - Mr. Bradley said that there wouldn't be a rate increase without a corresponding salary increase but when building garages we need to raise rates to pay for them.

Q - Dr. Creshema Murray asked if there would be a development for a safe walk to the main building from the Washington St. Lot?

A - Mr. Bradley said that one would have to walk north and come around to use the crosswalks as there was no direct path.

Q - Mr. Steve Bonario asked whether there was a contradiction between increased online students/classes and more buildings? Can we overbuild?

A - Mr. Bradley indicated that this was something that we needed to watch out for.

Dr. Ed Cueva came to give a report as the chair of Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC). He thanked Senate for the invitation and mentioned that the committee sent out a list of policies that it is reviewing. He asked that we review the list.

Q - What is the plan with the R&T policy with faculty input?

A - Dr. Cueva indicated that the committee simply plans to follow the policy flow chart for input.

Q - Why was the Non-Tenured Appointment Policy being reviewed?

A - Dr. Moosally answered the question. She said there was a minor correction needed with graduate teaching fellows and the 18-hour rule.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Wang made announcements.

The College of Science and Technology had two special elections. Dr. Mian Jiang has been elected to the Faculty Affairs Committee (2018-2020) and Dr. Dexter Cahoy has been elected to the Academic Policy Committee (2018-2020).

GMSC did not provide a nominee for the Grievance Committee (2018-2020) and so that committee spot will stay vacant for the time being.

Dr. Wang and Dr. Henney also provided some highlights from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) 2018 Fall Meeting. Dr. Wang said the top interest among senators was "health insurance" followed by "field of study", "enrollment", and "workload".

Dr. Henney expanded on the interests of TCFS.

She said that Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and TexFlex has issues all across the state and while UT and Texas A&M have their own plans (which are good) the rest of the universities are stuck with BCBS. TCFS is compiling the issues but currently it looks like they are: lack of customer service, PCP and specialists being lost without notifying patients, costs increasing, and the plan is nickel and diming people for tests previously covered.

For field of study, THECB is looking to allow a group of lower level classes to transfer into all universities in specific fields - Biology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, etc.

Q - Does this mean that one university (UT) has the curriculum that is considered the master plan for the state?

A - Dr. Henney said no, UT came out against it. There are groups of faculty (discipline specific) from various universities who are designing the fields of study.

Q - Dr. Moosally asked whether this is coming from the coordinating board and whether this is going to be a requirement?

A - Dr. Henney said the coordinating board is developing this and it can be required.

Q - What about SACSOCS?

A - According to Dr. Henney, SACSOCS came out against this proposal.

Dr. Murray asked whether or not the worry about field of study was a little extreme. Articulation agreements were already in place with specific community colleges. Maybe this worry is more discipline specific.

Mr. Tim Klein mentioned that it doesn't change what we offer, it just means that we don't require students to retake the intro classes.

Dr. Moosally asked what were the long term consequences/implication for a curriculum that wants to innovate?

Q - Is this articulation and transfer of classes or mandating curriculum?

A - Dr. Henney said that all courses (lower level) have to match around the state in the field of study.

### **Old Business**

Dr. Sadana developed a powerpoint based on themes that emerged from the last Senate meeting on online rigor (see attached). The biggest question is what do we do next? Possibly a resolution?

Discussion opened.

An issue is missing -> who owns the courses? That is holding some people back.

Where is training coming from? CTLE can't afford it.

Dr. Moosally mentioned that there is a S.A.M. that speaks to the ownership of classes. If faculty get extra funding or a release to create the class, then the university owns the course, otherwise it is shared ownership.

Q - What is a S.A.M.?

A - System Administrative Memoranda - UH System policies.

Q - If there are issues with a S.A.M., would UFEC be the resolution and can we find out what they think?

A - Dr. Wang said that there is a UFEC meeting next week and he will bring this issue up.

Dr. Sadana indicated that there was no answer yet to a possible resolution.

Dr. Wang said hopefully we will be able to develop this more. He also asked for the senators to send feedback/comments about online rigor to FSEC so that something productive could come from the discussion on online rigor.

### **New Business**

Dr. Wang said that some faculty have experienced issues/problems with the bureaucracy at UHD. This issue was number 5 on the foci list developed at the beginning of the semester. Other issues (i.e., workload, online) have been discussed in previous years, but this issue is a bit newer to the Senate.

Dr. Baker gave a presentation on some of the issues encountered (see attached). She mentioned that the O'Kane Gallery is successful but growth become prohibitive due to some processes and practices at UHD.

Dr. Robertson said this is a big issue for him as the Director of the Center for Critical Race Studies. He spends a lot of time simply walking between offices to get things done. The current infrastructure doesn't allow movement forward of many of the programs, centers, and initiatives that UHD encourages.

Why don't we meet with staff council? We should meet.

We had a joint meeting maybe 10 years ago, but there is no reason why we cannot.

Mr. Mark Cervenka also spoke on this issue. He explained that he has worked at UHD for quite a while and has dealt with tons of contracts, and knows the contract office, staff, and administration. Everyone who works in the contracts office is competent and good intentioned. This isn't just a faculty issue. Mr. Cervenka indicated that there have been increasingly more steps and more processes to get contracts completed here at UHD. He has to constantly check on the progress of tasks to make sure that it hasn't fallen off of someone's radar. We should look at the efficiency of the process without getting rid of important checks and balances.

Dr. Wang brought up the last issue that needed to be discussed. The next scheduled Senate meeting is

for November 20th, the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. Typically, a number of senators cannot make the meeting, so it has been suggested to move the meeting to our next regular meeting on December 4th.

Dr. Henney makes a motion to move the November 20th meeting to December 4th and it is seconded by Dr. Robertson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Sadana made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Lloyd seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.