

UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Nathan Neale
Regular Scheduled Senate Meeting March 22, 2022
2:30 – 4:00 PM
Online via Zoom

Members of Senate in Attendance: Edmund Cueva, Krista Gehring, Ronald Beebe, Nathan Neale, Godwin Agboka, Stephanie Babb, Nina Barbieri, Maria Bhattacharjee, Alexander Bielakowski, Scott Davis, Austin DeJan, Prakash Deo, Lucas Fedell, Paul Fulbright, Don Holmes, Heather Goltz, Cynthia Lloyd, Michael Lemke, Lucas Logan, Jean Nganou, M. Nell Sullivan, Candace TenBrink, Adriana Visbal, Julie Wilson

Senators Absent: Ayden Adler, Kasi Bundoc, Franklin Allaire, Amy Baird, Angelica Roncancio, Danya Serrano

Guests: Akif Uzman, Interim Provost, Sheila Lloyd, AVP, Michelle Moosally, AVP, Jerry Johnson, AVP, Sandra Dahlberg, Ombuds, Patricia Ensor, Executive Director, W.I.D., Carolyn Gascoigne, Associate Dean, University College, Merriann Bidgood, Lisa Braysen, Christine Stempinski, Sam Sen, Lecturer, Jesús Serrato, Hossein Shahrokhi, UHD Chief Information Officer, Darlene Hodge, FS Admin

Call to order: The Senate was called to order at 2:32 PM by Senate President Elect Krista Gehring after a quorum was assembled.

A motion to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes was made and seconded.
The minutes were approved.

Reports

Interim Provost Uzman shared a brief report on the PBDC budget. He said that there are about \$5.5MM in requests. These include many items, including faculty positions and remodeling parts of One Main. They have to wait to begin remodeling until an architect is on hand. There are 34 new faculty lines, which is about a 13% increase and a large focus on student affairs and student success, advisors, etc. They are not sure how much revenue will be available next year and are also looking at faculty compensation.

He opened this up for questions and there were none.

The senate discussed a proposed Texas Tenure Resolution to address the pledge made on March 13th by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick where he proposes to end tenure for new university instructors. This is related to a desire to stop faculty from teaching critical race theory. This would include six-year post tenure and annual reviews too. A proposed resolution was shared, discussed and modified. It would be sent out for further comment and be brought up again during the next senate meeting.

Dr. Jerry Johnson shared a presentation on faculty workload.
Dr. Sheila Lloyd provided a report on the recent SACSOS submission. She thanked Lea Campbell and Lucy Bowen for their efforts. She said that the larger report is due in five years.

She then shared an update on Strategic Planning. This involved 24 individuals, including (2) SGA, (2) senators, (1) staff council and many other employees. They are still obtaining community feedback.

Q-Why a focus on Houstonians?

A-Like CSU and SUNY, we draw students from the metro area.

Q-Some organizations use the mission and strategic plans as report cards for progress and accomplishments. Do we have measures?

A-Yes, we do

Dr. Gehring said that this has been a detailed and enjoyable process. It was intensive and everyone involved had a voice.

Interim Provost Uzman echoed this point and said that there were both intentionality and focus. It was a very good process.

Dr. Lloyd said that they hoped to implement the plan on June 1st.

Dr. Cueva asked how much this would cost.

A-There is an action plan and we are not sure about the actual costs.

Dr. Beebe said that he would send out more information about proposed amendment to ensure that FSEC will have a dedicated lecturer position.

Dr. Cueva said that Dr. Gehring would be working on handbook revisions soon.

New Business

The senate reviewed a student debt cancellation proposal and discussed if we should support this on April 4th.

C-Being a faculty member will be much easier without debt. This impacts the number of children some of us have and where we live. This will help us and our students.

Q-Are there public funds available for this? We need to wrestle with this and help our students.

Dr. Cueva explained that this is at the federal level. He asked the senate if they wanted to support the statement on debt cancellation to AAUP. We are not designing a program.

A motion to support was made and seconded. The senate voted to support.

The senate meeting adjourned 4:08 PM

Key:

Answer

Comment

Question