

Report of the UHD Faculty Senate President

For October 6, 2009

Submitted by Michelle Moosally

I may update or highlight issues during the Senate meeting. However, anything in these notes is open 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.

Senate Retreat

The Senate met on Friday, September 25 to discuss possible changes to the Constitution. We had lively discussions and a subgroup will continue to work on key ideas regarding continuity of Senate leadership, representation of various constituencies, and committee structures and appointments. Dr. Flores also stopped in to discuss the leadership retreat and answer Senators' questions.

President Flores's Leadership Retreat

Members of FSEC joined about 50 other members of the university community at the President's leadership retreat on September 23 and 24. A key goal was to understand challenges facing the university as well as find ways to build stronger teamwork and leadership skills to address those challenges. The leadership team will continue to meet and focus on a long-term vision for UHD. We very much encourage everyone to send ideas to the team members. I refer you to the full summary at <http://www.uhd.edu/publicaffairs/documents/2009leadershipsummary.pdf>

Workload

The Faculty Senate workload implementation plan calls for departments to be working on a specific plan for next fall's workload adjustment during the month of October. Our timeline is moving quickly – all faculty need to encourage discussions in their departments in the coming few weeks so that we can meet our fall 2010 scheduling deadlines.

Provost Search

Faculty are participating in a process to generate a pool of faculty nominees; President Flores will make final selections of faculty from that pool to serve on the Provost screening committee. UHD will hire a professional search firm to assist the committee with the hiring process in terms of building a broad-based pool of candidates, tracking paperwork, etc. Dr. Flores has indicated that he would like to have finalists on campus in mid-spring semester to be sure that we can have full campus participation.

Mission Statement

All universities in the UH System have been asked to review their mission statements with the goal of creating clear distinctions among the 4 universities. They have asked us to focus on our current mission, which can then be accompanied by a separate vision statement that would address our future aspirations. We need to have a final version ready for the December 14 BOR meeting. The President has appointed a group to steer this process; see link to leadership retreat summary for details.

Planning Process

As the recent notice from President Flores indicated, we are establishing the University Planning and Budget Council (in the same vein as the former UPC); this is a university-level group that includes elected faculty representatives as well as the Senate President and Vice President. The elected faculty reps are Steve Coy (COB), Viola Garcia (COPS), Ermelinda Delavina (CST) and Michael Dressman (CHSS). It will be co-chaired this year by Dr. Fairbanks and Dr. Delavina. We very much encourage a collaborative effort within and among colleges to develop strategies that draw connections among individual line-item requests, with focus on improved retention – well-developed proposals will make it much easier for the university committee to allocate resources effectively and in meaningful ways.

Sponsored Research Policy

A revised emergency version of the Sponsored Research policy was apparently signed by Dr. Castillo at the end of June; we also understand that this new version is being enforced. However, it has still not been officially published for the faculty. I do not know the status of this policy or when it will be released. As soon as it is available, we will send it to the Faculty Affairs Committee for full shared governance review.

Name Selection

The university has signed a contract with a new branding/marketing firm (Stamats, Inc. from Cedar Rapids, Iowa) to assist with the process of selecting a name. I understand that the BOR would like to have results ready by some time in the spring semester.

Assessment Happenings

Assessment Reports – Department Assessment Coordinators (DACs) are working with their departments to produce the first cycle of post-SACS reports. Please remember that SACS returns for a 5th-year interim report in Spring, 2012. They will be reviewing our progress on the academic assessment plans that we developed for the monitoring report. Assessment has great potential for helping us to improve our programs – I encourage all faculty to ask questions about what is happening in their departments.

General Education—The newly configured university General Education Advisory Committee has begun regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month; Dr. Austin Allen has been elected chair. General Education will also come under review in 2012; we have much to do, so I encourage faculty to lend support to the efforts of this important committee.