

Report of the UHD Faculty Senate President
For March 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.

1. Workload Policy

Academic Affairs Council met on February 25. The workload policy was presented and passed unanimously – the version that was passed was the exact version presented to the Senate on February 17 by Dr. Morano. We await word that Dr. Castillo has received the policy and intends to sign it; we have every expectation that it will be approved.

2. Other News from Academic Affairs Council

The committee reviewed the Elimination of Programs policy and the Dean's List policy. Both were sent back to committee for revision/clarification.

3. Strategic Planning Oversight Council

We have begun to review plans from division leaders. Dr. Woods presented three lists: Academic Affairs Priorities (non-HEAF), HEAF requests, and a special requests list highlighting some needs of the Scholars Academy. At the top of the non-HEAF list are compensation for merit and cost of living for staff and faculty as well as 14 faculty positions (T/TT + lecturers), 11 advisors, an Assistant VPAA position, and review of M&O allocations to achieve balance based on enrollments and number of faculty. Dr. Coy suggested that we need to also plan ahead for the T/TT coverage gaps that will occur when the new workload policy goes into effect. VP Apodaca focused top requests on advising.

4. Safety Questions

FSEC had a lengthy and productive discussion with VP Bradley about concerns and questions about campus safety. Mr. Bradley articulated some existing plans and ideas for future improvements; he and Chief Boyle will be working to make these efforts more visible to the UHD community.

5. ACE Conference on Student Success

We have a full program and it will be available by the end of the week. Applicants have all been contacted about the status of their proposals. There is still time to register if you would like to attend.

6. Governor's Initiatives

At this point, we do not have any further information on how the document from the Governor's Office is being addressed within the UH System or specifically on our campus. Discussion at Senate will include updates on the context for this initiative (apparently partly influenced by the Governor's Higher Ed Summit last May with the Regents from all state systems) and discussion

of best approaches for responding/addressing/refuting. You may want to check out the Sunday op-ed piece in the *Houston Chronicle* written by a colleague from UH.

7. *Faculty Climate Survey*

The Senate subcommittee has been working on some changes in the survey and will send it to the Senate shortly for comment. It will be sent out to the UHD faculty in the coming weeks.

REMINDER: Faculty Awards Ceremony/Faculty Assembly will be April 7, 2:30. Please join us to celebrate the achievements of our colleagues and reflect on actions and goals of the faculty at UHD.