

UHD

Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Trevor S. Hale

Date and Time: January 19, 2016 2:30 PM

Room Number: A300

Attendance: Ryan Pepper (President), Susan Henney (Past-President), Carolyn Ashe (President-elect), Trevor Hale (Secretary), Pat Williams, Anne Kane, Claude Rubinson, Steven Coy, Dvijesh Shastri, Azar Rejaie (3:07 PM), Robin Jose, Maria Benavides, Zhenyu Zhang, Katharine Jager (2:58 PM), Keith Wright, Kendra Mhoon, Susan Baker, Bernardo Pohl, Michael Connell, Hsiao-Ming Wang, Karen Kaser

Guests: Ed Hugetz, Faiza Khoja, Lucy Bowen, Lisa Berry, Chris Birchak, Johanna Schmertz, Heather Goltz

Regrets: N/A

Absent: Pamela Hurley, Steve London, Charles Smith, Jane Creighton, Jillian Hill

Call to Order: 2:34 PM

Meeting Proceedings

Announcements:

1. Campus Safety Task Force Town Hall meeting is scheduled for February 3rd from 3:00 to 5:00. Details forthcoming.
2. Approval of meeting minutes from December 1 meeting tables until February 2 meeting.

Presentation by Faiza Khoja: QEP Update

1. Always looking at "Community Engagement" as focus of QEP. Only now the thesis has been enhanced a little bit into three concerns (see handout).
2. If faculty that teach in the core want their courses to be ACE designated, they need to demonstrate two of the SLOs. Faculty who don't teach in the core but would like their courses ACE designated only need to demonstrate one of the SLOs.
3. Save the date: March 3rd and 4th for the critical thinking workshops.
 - a. First of many workshops associated with the QEP.
4. No requirements for students.

- a. If students would like the “Enhanced Scholar” designation on their transcripts, they must have taken 4 ACE courses with at most 1 C in those four and a 2.5 overall GPA.

Questions and discussion:

Faculty Senate President Pepper: What if the student has four ACE courses with grades of A, A, A, and D?

Answer: Take another ACE course with a C or better.

Senator Coy: What is the carrot to get faculty to buy-in?

Answer: Some buy-in already exists for fall of 2016 (e.g., Freshman Seminar).

Senator Benavides: How do the student’s benefit?

Answer: Designation on their transcript, use skills in their career, and in interview setting it will differentiate them.

Senator Jose: Suppose a student signs up for a specific section of a particular course that is ACE designated but the student wanted a non-ACE designated course...will the student’s be able to opt out of the course’s ACE assignment?

Answer: No.

Senator Kaser: Will it be in Banner?

Answer: Yes.

Senator Wang: Has there been any discussion as to how much weight the ACE assignment should carry in a particular course?

Answer: No, not yet.

Presentation by Senator Coy on Online Cheating:

1. There exists places on the Internet where students can go and pay someone to take their online course for them: www.noneedtostudy.com.
2. It is high tech cheating and we need to be out in front on this issue.

“What do we want to do to mitigate this as a University?”

3. It will require updating the Academic Honesty Policy.

Action: A task force was assigned to investigate the issue and bring recommendations to the Senate. Members: Coy (chair), Mhoon, Pohl, Rubinson, Kaser, and Hugetz.

New Business:

PS 10.A.01:

1. Resolution for first reading to charge FAC with updates to the Rank and Tenure Policy.

UHD FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION REGARDING PS 10.A.01

WHEREAS the very idea of associate professors voting on R&T decision regarding promotion to professor raises concerns of quid pro quo or even the perception of quid pro quo; and

WHEREAS the language regarding abstentions, absents, and recusals in the voting process is unclear; and

WHEREAS the language, "Fifty percent of all members of the department rank and tenure committee must vote "yes" to register a positive vote result." in section 2.3.4 of PS 10.A.01 could result in a negative outcome if more than 50% recuse themselves, are absent, or abstain from voting; and

WHEREAS the policy does not address the possibility voting electronically and/or in absentia; and

WHEREAS the section on confidentiality (2.2.6) is unclear; and

WHEREAS the policy does not allow for sub-committees of a department Rank and Tenure Committee to address particular candidates as opposed to the entire committee; and

WHEREAS the last phrase of 2.2.5.4, "...but a minimum of six years as an associate professor is strongly recommended." is being used as a de facto requirement, is in opposition with UH System Administrative Memorandum 06.A.09, and it discourages noteworthy achievements and biases promotions to full professor simply via seniority over actual merit.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate urges the UHD Faculty Affairs Committee, the President, and the Provost to:

1. Remove all references and language in PS 10.A.01 allowing associate professors to vote on promotions to full professor.
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____
2. Clarify the language in the policy regarding abstentions, absents, and recusals.
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____
3. Clarify the language regarding fifty percent of the department rank and tenure committee must vote "yes" to yield a positive result accordingly.
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____
4. Add language to allow for voting electronically and in absentia.
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____
5. Clarify the section on process confidentiality.
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____
6. Add language to allow department rank and tenure committees to appoint sub-committees for candidates.
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____
7. Remove the last phrase of 2.2.5.4, "...but a minimum of six years as an associate professor is strongly recommended."
For _____ Against _____ Abstain _____

Questions and discussion:

Executive session: Minutes suspended to allow free discussion and straw polls on resolutions.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is February 2nd.

Adjourn:

Adjournment at 3:58 PM.

DRAFT