

**DRAFT**  
**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
Meeting: February 17, 2009

PRESENT: M. Moosally, B. Belbot, T. Davis, , J. Creighton, J. Dutcher, T. Emeka, J. Flosi, B. Gilbert, A. Gomez-Rivas, O. Gupta, T. Hale, S. Henney, L. Hignite, N. Leveille, P. Lyons, K. McLellan, C. Nguyen, A. Pavelich, J. Pavletich, S. Penkar, N. Rangel, T. Redl, A. Rejaie, R. Robbins, K. Robertson, D. Ryden, P. Simeonov, J. Yoon, Z. Zhou

ABSENT: J. Caro, B. Christmas, A. Kane, D. Nino, K. Pinkerton, J. Schmertz

GUESTS: Provost M. Woods, VP I. Montalbano, AVP G. Evans, Library Director P. Ensor, J. Alvarez, E. Apodaca, C. Birchak, R. Boyle, J. Cantu, P. Cureton, P. Evergreen, G. Getz, J. Jackson, C. McCall, L. Morano, R. Sheridan, C. Snell, A. Sikka, C. Stokes.

Senate President Moosally called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Minutes for the January 20 faculty senate meeting were approved (1 abstention). Minutes for the February 3 faculty senate meeting were approved (2 abstentions).

Senate President Moosally's Report (see attached for written report from the President)

Senate President Moosally called on Dr. L. Morano, Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee, to give an update on the workload policy (see attached policy). Dr. Morano said that the changes in the policy from what had previously come before the faculty senate dealt with financial exigency and the timeframe for implementing the policy. The financial exigency clause was removed from the workload policy and will be dealt with in a separate exigency policy. The implementation of the new workload policy will occur in the fall semester 2010.

Two new charges have been sent to Faculty Affairs Committee from the Senate: faculty development leave policy and chair election policy.

President Moosally reported that the name change/selection appears to be an issue that will not come before the legislature during this legislative session. The structure of the General Education Committee is being updated; they are working with Provost Woods on this. President Moosally also announced that SPOC has been meeting and discussion of budget and planning issues are underway.

The Student Success conference sponsored by UFEC has received around 40 abstracts and approximately 130 registrations so far. There is still time to register for the March 27 conference.

The search for UHD President is underway. Senate President Moosally reminded everyone to nominate candidates for the position; "the more names in the pool, the better the opportunities."

President Moosally also announced that AAUP has sent a letter of concern and objections regarding the UTMB layoffs.

#### Senate Vice-President B. Belbot's Report

Vice-President Belbot announced the election results for new senators, who will replace those who cannot finish out their terms of service. J. Schmertz from English, A. Pavelich from SOS, and T. Emeka from CJ were elected. New senators were welcomed.

#### Provost M. Woods Report

Provost Woods reported that the mission statement and the table of programs are awaiting decisions from the BOR. She thanked those who helped complete the documents. Provost Woods reiterated that Chancellor Khator still wants mission statements and table of programs held until the universities' mission statements differentiate each university. There has been some legislative action: VP Bradley is handling the financial part; UHD President M. Castillo has testified before the legislative committee; so the usual legislative goings-on are on-going.

Provost Woods shared with the faculty senate documents put together by the Governor Perry's office. Dr. Woods said that there is only a couple of pieces of information that faculty will provide for the governor's initiative; the rest of the information will be put together by the administration at UHD. Dr. Woods noted that the provosts from various universities are objecting to this. The UH System will collect the information and then decide how to proceed. The UHD administration will be asking faculty to provide "articles" published in peer reviewed journals in the past three years. A format will be provided.

Senator Henney asked what authority the governor's office has to demand this information. Senator Lyons said that UT-Austin is blowing off this requirement. Provost Woods said that her office cannot afford to wait to pull this information together—because if UHD is required to provide the information, it is due in June. Senator McLellan asked if the governor's office has not read the research on student evaluations. Provost Woods pointed out that Item IV requires a minimum average on student evaluations for tenure decisions and that UHD actually has a policy against this. Provost Woods has taken the document to Deans' Council and FSEC.

Senate President Moosally asked how the information might be interpreted and about the flow of information. Provost Woods said that at this point they are concerned with the posting of information on a website; she has a lot of questions about this but wants to be prepared in case distribution of this information becomes necessary. There are a lot of uncertainties about how the information might be used and how it might be distributed. Senate VP Belbot asked about the implications of item #IV re tenure decisions for 2009-2010. Provost Woods does not think there will be any effect on the immediately-upcoming tenure decisions. Senator Rangel brought up the legislative issue on textbooks. Provost Woods said that it is still a legislative item but has not been decided on. Senator Ryden asked if faculty should start to adjust their research agendas. Provost Woods suggests that faculty not change what they are currently doing; she just wants faculty to stay informed and to provide whatever information she asks them to provide.

AVP Evans pointed out that the legislature already has access to some of this information, e.g. GPAs in classes, via the open information law. She suggested that faculty might want to follow the legislative information online; she will forward a website address where faculty can look at the higher education committee and follow the bill on textbook selection.

Senate President Moosally encouraged all the senators to talk with their constituents; she also said that resolutions and/or statements are possible and that she would be happy to take a resolution to the TCFS. Provost Woods said that all four universities of the UH System are involved in this discussion.

### New Business

VP E. Apodaca was invited to inform the senate on student enrollment and retention. Mr. Apodaca pointed out that only 8.3% are new freshman, 16.8% are new transfers, and 74.5% are continuing students (See handout attached). The Admissions Office and the Financial Aid Office have improved processes. All students who call and leave a message get returned calls. The distribution of financial aid checks has been outsourced to Higher One (a U.S. company). Now, a student can get a financial aid check that is approved by 10 a.m. and can have access to the funds by that afternoon. Orientation is now mandatory for all freshmen students. They can go through the academic advising process. The payment of tuition has been streamlined so that students no longer have to stand in long lines at cashiers' office. VP Apodaca said that one of the best selling points is technology, i.e. students now see our classrooms and the technology available and are favorably impressed. VP Apodaca said that a pre-major declaration program is being discussed. Less than a third of our students declare a major; therefore, they are often paying \$700 for a course that they are not certain will count toward the major once it is declared. He pointed out that many of our students are first-generation students and are therefore not as savvy in choices of major and expectations in college. VP Apodaca also said that a recruitment program is being developed for undergraduate, graduate, and international students. There are joint efforts with Houston Community College in regard to recruitment of international students. Students can attend HCC for approximately \$1900 compared to \$6000, so it is an attractive alternative for international students to attend HCC for the first two years and then enter UHD. Scholarships for freshmen who have SAT scores above 1000 and GPAs of 3.5 will total \$200,000 for this coming academic year. Another \$150,000 in scholarships will be available for transfer students.

Dr. Birchak gave an update on the QEP and the Achieving the Dream initiatives. Through the QEP, a week-long orientation event was provided for entering freshmen. Eighty-nine percent of those who attended the week-long program returned; forty-two percent of those maintained GPAs of 3.00. The emphasis of the program is on academic preparation and parents are also involved in the initial orientation meeting. The Achieving the Dream program has provided linkages between some of the developmental courses and the freshman-level course (e.g., developmental reading and history 1305; developmental math 0300 and math 1300). This has allowed students to move more quickly through the developmental and then on to the college-level course. Collaborative efforts between advisors and faculty have also provided support through time management programs, learning communities, and early intervention initiatives. A mentoring program called "Connections" led to a retention rate of 91% with 12% of those

students having a 4.0 GPA and 37% maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Dr. Birchak indicated that many of these programs are proving to be effective in retention and college success. She pointed out that curriculum development grants are available for developing programs; these grants are open to all faculty. A question of how many freshmen are involved in these programs was asked. Dr. Birchak said that 250 are enrolled in the cornerstone course and 78 are in the mentoring program; because there are various numbers for the different programs, she offered to email the numbers for all of the QEP and ATD programs to faculty who would like to have that information.

President Moosally asked Provost Woods if she would like to comment on any of these programs. Provost Woods recognized the “Firearms and Safety on Campus” topic on the agenda and said that she felt she should defer her discussion so that the “Firearms...” topic could be covered. VP Belbot then made a motion to change the order of the topics on the agenda so that the “Firearms and Safety on campus” could be discussed. Senate members unanimously agreed.

President Moosally pointed out that there has been discussion at the legislature of a bill which would allow concealed weapons to be carried on university campuses. There was general agreement that faculty are opposed to a bill that would allow students or others with concealed weapon permits to carry their weapons on campus. A senator pointed out that no bill to this effect has been introduced at this time. Should the need arise, the faculty senate will revisit the issue of firearms on university campuses. The issue of safety between One Main and the Shea Street College of Business was also brought to the attention of the Senate. President Moosally said that VP Bradley had intended to address the issue but was unable to attend the Senate meeting today.

Given that time was short, other new business, i.e. the faculty bonus system based on student evaluations, will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Davis  
Secretary