

DRAFT  
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
Meeting: January 20, 2009

PRESENT: M. Moosally, B. Belbot, T. Davis, B. Christmas, J. Creighton, J. Dutcher, J. Flosi, B. Gilbert, O. Gupta, S. Henney, L. Hignite, A. Kane, N. Leveille, P. Lyons, K. McLellan, D. Nino, C. Nguyen, , J. Pavletich, K. Pinkerton, N. Rangel, T. Redl, A. Rejaie, R. Robbins, K. Robertson, D. Ryden, P. Simeonov, J. Yoon

ABSENT: J. Caro, M. Cunningham, A. Gomez-Rivas, T. Hale, J. Pavletich, S. Penkar, C. Stewart, H. Wang, Z. Zhou

GUESTS: Provost M. Woods, AVP P. Williams, VP D. Bradley, VP I. Montalbano, AVP G. Evans, Library Director P. Ensor, Public Relations Director S. Davis, P. Cureton, P. Ingram, J. Schmertz, R. Sheridan, A. Sikka, C. Stokes.

Senate President Moosally called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes for the November 18, 2008 Senate Meeting and the December 2 Senate Meeting were approved with corrections of the spelling of one name, the addition of J. Flosi to the Assessment Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate, the correction of the acronym HEAF, and the attachment of the open letter from M. Johnson to the November 18 minutes.

Senate President Moosally's Report

Senate President Moosally presented her "Senate Notes," dated January 20, 2009 (see attached). She announced that she will be providing notes of this nature that cover a number of topics on which she is making announcements to the senate. She addressed the following issues in announcements:

1. Search for new President is proceeding. She encouraged faculty to nominate potential candidates as it is important to build a strong pool of candidates.
2. The UH System is addressing effective enrollment management and the distinctions between the universities in the system. It is not known at this time what forum that will take but will keep the senate informed.
3. Director of Admissions Mr. Ed Apodaca has started an initiative examining pre-major declarations for entering students. Please let Dr. Moosally know if you have an interest in working on this initiative.
4. Meeting dates for upcoming faculty senate meetings are identified in Dr. Moosally's notes. The Faculty Awards Ceremony is scheduled for April 7, 2009.
5. The new website for faculty senate should be ready around mid-February.

Senate Vice President Belbot's Report

Vice President Belbot reported that elections will be conducted to replace faculty senators who are unable to serve this semester. Specifically, Senators H. Wang, C. Stewart, and M. Cunningham will be replaced through the election process in their respective departments.

## New Business

- I. Climate Survey: Year before last (the last time the climate survey was administered) the climate survey was handled by FSEC. Former Senate President A. Sikka shared comments and results in regard to the faculty climate survey at the time that the survey was completed; however, due to the emergency situation with SACS accreditation, faculty senators were unable to follow through on the results of the survey. Dr. Sikka now suggests that the climate survey be done by a subcommittee of the faculty senate. President Moosally said that she would like the climate survey completed by the end of the semester but that may not be absolutely necessary or even possible.

Senator K. McLellan made a motion to create a senate subcommittee to revise and oversee the administration of the climate survey. The motion was seconded and passed. It was asked whether a subcommittee would have to be elected through the Credentials and Elections Committee; Dr. Moosally said that the subcommittee could be created without going through the Credentials and Elections Committee. Senator Hignite (CJ) volunteered to serve on the climate survey senate subcommittee; Senators Gupta (COB) and Redl (Math) will join Senator Hignite on the committee. Senator N. Leveille asked that the survey be completed using survey monkey. Dr. Moosally said that the use of survey monkey could be considered.

- II. Future meeting topics for discussion throughout the semester were presented by President Moosally. Those topics included student retention, shared governance, and parking. The question of solar panels on south deck was addressed. Senator Redl asked about the possibility of going to a once-a-month meeting, rather than the current twice-a-month senate meetings. President Moosally said she had received an email from Provost M. Woods and AVP P. Williams suggesting that a faculty group look at the way the final exam schedule is put together. Dr. Moosally also brought up the issue of final exams that are scheduled in an overlapping way; the question is how to resolve the time that the student will take the exam. Senator Flosi suggested that the release of the final exam schedule should be earlier than three days after the semester begins. Senator Flosi asked about the second March faculty senate meeting which is scheduled for spring break. A motion was made to move the meeting to March 24. The motion passed with 18 yes votes and 1 abstention.

- III. Vice-President D. Bradley was asked to address the senate in regard to parking and new space planning. Mr. Bradley said that a building group was formed in 2007 to consider what to do after the COB was completed. The group recommended the library upgrade; the group has not met since the completion of the library work; it needs to be reconvened. One of the hold-ups on proceeding with a facilities plan has been the situation with the Metro Station. Mr. Bradley said that UHD needs a facilities plan. He announced that changes in regard to parking are minimal. The Shea Street (COB) garage has been used by students and faculty; they are currently trying to determine how many student permits to sell in that lot. Parking and space planning will need to be addressed; the parking at One Main will need to be adjusted. Senator J. Dutcher brought to Mr. Bradley's attention that parking at the Commerce

building continues to be a problem; she also pointed out that the other (remote) lot floods when it rains and that it is difficult to get out of the car and out of the lot without getting wet. Mr. Bradley said that it is unlikely that parking space will be increased in the near future as it is not likely that the garage would be built higher. Mr. Bradley mentioned space behind the COB building that could possibly replace the parking that is displaced while the garage is being rebuilt at One Main. He pointed out that property downtown is too high (\$200 per square foot) for parking purposes. Unfortunately, there are not many/any alternatives for increasing parking space. Senator McLellan asked about the possibility of subsidizing faculty for taking public transportation. Mr. Bradley said that he did not know whether this would be cost effective. AVP G. Evans asked if UHD would be able to get control of the parking space under the interstate. If UHD could have control of that space, it could be used for overflow for faculty/staff. The city of Houston wants UHD to get the metro deal completed before moving forward on other space. Senator Dutcher made two points: 1. public transportation sounds good but some faculty must constantly go back and forth to the school and other locations; 2. the Urban Education Department faculty are expected to teach at remote locations and there is much carrying of materials in and out of the building. Senator Dutcher pointed out that the space at the Commerce Building is very limited; she asked if the patio could be made smaller in order to create more parking space or if some of the parking spaces around the Commerce Building could be leased from the city. She also said faculty working in the Commerce Building would be willing to use buddy parking.

- IV. President Moosally asked Mr. Bradley to talk about TRB (tuition revenue bonds) and what they would be used for. Mr. Bradley said TRB would be used for a building to house engineering operations; he said that typically the legislature does not give the money up front during the first year—therefore, it would still be a good three years away. The university is talking to Metro about some of the land north of the COB Building. If there were a building/space where all those labs could be moved, it would free up a lot of space in One Main. Mr. Bradley said the state revenues are down \$9 billion so it is likely to be a difficult year. Funds for doing things will be either through internal reallocations or reserves. President Moosally asked how faculty could have input into the building process/determination. Mr. Bradley said that faculty have had input and that there will continue to be opportunities for faculty input; he agrees with Dr. Moosally that there should be faculty input.
- V. Senator R. Robbins asked about the blue bins (recycling bins) in the COB. She also asked about the mandatory training.

### Old Business

UHD President M. Castillo addressed the senate in regard to the name change/selection process. Since President Castillo had been called away at 2:00 p.m. but was expected to return shortly, Senate President Moosally moved forward with the name change discussion. She described the name change process as she knows it from her membership on the name change/selection committee. She then asked Public Relations Director Sue Davis to comment; Ms. Davis said there have been focus groups with many constituencies: faculty, UHD students, high school

students, community college students and faculty; the focus groups are small so the discussion can result in more details. Results are posted on the listserv; all the information gathered will be posted on the listserv before the website is opened for voting. The UH System BOR has called a special meeting on Feb. 6 to consider the name(s) that will be chosen to be sent forward to the legislature. If only one name is to be sent forward, the UHD community will be notified beforehand.

Dr. Castillo arrived and was asked by Senate President Moosally to address the workload policy before addressing the name change issue. Dr. Castillo corrected the name change is now the “name selection” process and that it (name selection) will still have to go through the legislative process. He said the name selection leadership group will meet January 28 and make decisions about the five names to send forward. Dr. Castillo then addressed the workload policy; he has asked Dr. Woods to make some minor editorial changes so that he can sign it. One of the potential problems with implementation of the workload policy is the decrease in revenue, which is due to the initial business tax coming in at \$5 billion less than what was projected. However, UHD has grown and perhaps will be able to address how the workload policy would or could be implemented. Dr. Castillo asked that faculty be sure to call it “workload” policy. If the figures are correct, we are looking at a need to add 35 new tenure track lines to cover courses or to cover a greater percentage with temporary faculty.

Dr. Castillo also announced that just before winter break, the Carnegie Foundation gave UHD the designation of community engagement campus. Dr. Castillo just wanted to keep us informed about what that is. He also announced that one of our staff members, Lt. Commander Elaine Pearson, is attending the Heros Ball at the inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington, DC.

President Castillo will be participating in a number of sessions at legislature on January 27. There is a request for a new Science building, which would house science and art. Dr. Castillo will be working on this diligently in the next two or three months. The request for the new building was included in the legislative appropriations request.

Senator B. Gilbert asked how much not changing the name of the university would free up to use for the workload funding? Dr. Castillo does not see the name change as costing that much. Senator K. Robertson asked why we are picking a name when the legislature has not voted on changing the name. Dr. Castillo explained that the request for changing the name had to be accompanied by the name that the UH System wants to use to replace UHD.

Senate President Moosally announced that cake would be served in honor of President Castillo’s birthday. President Castillo was wished a “happy birthday.”

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy J. Davis  
Secretary-Treasurer