

Report of the UHD Faculty Senate President
For January 20, 2009

To manage Senate meeting time more efficiently, I'm trying a new system of "pre-meeting" announcements. I must reserve the right to update or highlight issues during the meeting, but hope this method will limit my talking time. **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. [For highlights, read the **red font.**]

1. President Search

I am pleased to report that the search has begun! **The formal announcement appears in the following locations in the coming weeks:**

Chronicle of Higher Ed

January 16 and January 23 Issues

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/id.php?id=0000588544-01&pg=s&cc=>

Diverse Issues in Higher Ed

February 5 Issue

Hispanic Outlook

January 26 Issue

Women in Higher Ed

February 1 Issue

However, we do not want to rely solely on these venues – let the committee know of any individuals that you think might be candidates. A diverse, strong pool is critical to the success of the search. **Therefore, if you or anyone you know would like to recommend a nominee, please send the name forward to one of the committee members.** We will pass along those nominees to the search firm and they will follow up to ascertain interest.

The Search Committee is meeting this Friday (Jan 23) to discuss in more detail what our expectations are of the candidates and what candidates might expect to find awaiting them at UHD. **It is imperative that your reps on the committee hear from you – what are key issues facing UHD? What are key qualities you seek in a candidate?** Faculty reps are as follows:

COB: Marvin Williams

COPS: Viola Garcia

CHSS: David Ryden

CST: Alberto Gomez-Rivas

Fac Senate: Michelle Moosally

2. Workload Policy

The workload policy was discussed at Academic Affairs Council in early December. It was approved by a vote of 9-7, and we await Dr. Castillo's final decision.

3. Name Change

For more detail, I refer you to the email that VP Belbot and I sent to all faculty on January 15 or to the website: <http://www.uhd.edu/publicaffairs/namechange/index.htm>). Upcoming events of note:

- **Round-table discussions on Jan 21 and 22** – you must pre-register to participate
- **Listserv discussion available** to all with a uhd.edu account (for students this would be gatormail accounts)
- **Vote of constituents Jan 23-Jan 27** – details of format and distribution method still unknown
- **5 names, unranked with pros and cons** sent to President Castillo and Chancellor Khator (probably Jan 29 or 30)
- **BOR meeting on February 6 at 1:00**

I believe that you can communicate any input or questions to Ms. Sue Davis, who is spearheading/coordinating the initiative, or to folks on the Name Change Leadership Group, which was just announced on January 9. (Full list too lengthy here, but Department Chairs, Barbara Belbot and I are in the group).

4. UH Provost and UH System Senior Vice Chancellor

The Chancellor has announced the appointment of Dr. John Antel to fill this position. He was one of 4 finalists and the only internal candidate in the group. He is currently the Dean of the CLASS, one of the largest colleges at UH. His academic background is in health economy. His appointment will become effective after approval by the BOR.

5. UFEC Update [University Faculties Executive Council]

Conference on Student Success: UFEC and the Chancellor are sponsoring a **conference on Student Success – to be held HERE at UHD on March 27, 2009.** We will send out a call for proposals within a couple of days; **deadline February 16.** We have established fairly broad categories for submissions and the call will offer some ideas in each category: Academic Achievement, Career Success, and Student Engagement.

The system is moving forward with the **249 initiative:** PrairieView, SAM, Lone Star, UH and UHD will be allowed to offer programs at the Lone Star System's Willowchase campus. Details/programs TBA.

The System is working on plans for more effective enrollment management. One step will be discussions at all institutions regarding ways in which the 4 schools are distinct from each other – **the goal is to develop specific descriptions to identify these unique features, as the Chancellor has noted that current mission statements look quite similar.** At this point, I understand that the process at each campus will be facilitated by system consultants and administrators sometime during Spring semester.

UHCL is going ahead with Pearland expansion; faculty are concerned about raises, as they have not had raises in the past 2 years.

UHV is moving forward with expansion into freshman and sophomore levels; the most pressing issue is housing –they are not budgeted to build until after new enrollments come in. The Senate is also seeking a date to hold a retreat on the topic of shared governance.

UH will welcome their new Provost and is working on budgets—all divisions have been asked to cut non-instructional costs by 5%.

6. Pre-Major Declaration

VP Apodaca has initiated a pre-major planning sub-committee to work over the next 6-8 weeks.

“This sub-committee will review current and future UH students’ pre-major related needs, current and needed resources, existing models from other campuses, and college concerns and expectations. After completing the review the sub-committee will identify a plan or plans that can be presented with strategies and recommended actions.” **If any Senators have a particular interest in serving as part of this group, please let me know ASAP.**

7. Assessment

Dr. Williams just sent an update – the position announcement is up, we already have some applicants, the search and screening committee should be appointed this week.

8. Ombuds

Dr. Michael Dressman has been appointed as Ombuds; we anticipate that a formal announcement will be made by Dr. Woods.

9. Spring 2009 Senate meeting schedule –Mark your calendars!

Jan 20, 2009

Feb 3, 2009

Feb 17, 2009

Mar 3, 2009

Mar 17, 2009 [Spring Break – will query Senate about moving the meeting to March 24!]

April 7, 2009 – Faculty Awards Ceremony

April 21, 2009

May 5, 2009 – First meeting of the 2009-2010 Senate

10. Faculty Climate Survey

The climate survey was established in 2003; the Senate undertakes the survey in the Spring Semester of every odd year, so it’s coming our way this semester. If you have suggestions for survey content, please communicate with a member of the Senate so it can be considered.