

UHD Faculty Senate Meeting

January 15, 2013

Minutes

Present: G. Preuss (President), T. Hale (President Elect), S. Henney (Secretary), A. Allen (Past President), C. Bachman, C. Burnett, S. Farris, R. Johnson, J. Schmertz, P. Mandell, C. Nguyen, R. Davidson, R. Beebe, C. Rubinson, J. Ahmad, M. Benavides, M. Duncan, J. Johnson, C. Nguyen, D. Epstein, J. Herrera, S. Penkar, I. Wang, F. Khoja, J. Tito-Izquierdo, P. Li, W. Nowak, V. Hryniv, S. Yuan, S. Koshkin,

Absent: P. Deo

Opening Remarks and Welcome: Dr. Preuss, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Preuss offered prolific thanks to everyone who helped to organize today's meeting, including FSEC, Tiziano Hernandez, Ivan Sanchez, Johanna Wolfe, Janet Heitmiller, Lloyd Matzner, Lucy Bowen, Jackie Trahan, Gilda Parker, Chris Latson, and Dave McCoy.

Minutes

Motion to table consideration of the minutes until the next meeting. Motion passed.

Dr. Preuss remarked that every attempt is being made to make the transition of leadership as smooth as possible. A suggestion drop box will be added to the Faculty Senate Web page in order for faculty to offer suggestions and input.

Reports from University Committees and Task Forces

Academic Policy Committee

Completed and sent to Provost:

- PS 03.A.30 Semester Credit Hours Policy
- PS 03.A.12 Changes to Curricula, Course, and Program Inventory

Expect to finish this week and send to Provost

- PS 03.A.11 Credit By Examination and Credit by Approved Equivalencies

In progress:

- PS. 03.1.07 Academic Probation and Suspension for Undergraduate Students

New business:

- PS 03.A.31 Assessment of Education Programs
- PS 03.A.06 Graduation & Commencement policy

Requests to look at the following:

- Academic Honesty Policy
- Policy on Majors and Minors (dual majors possible)

University Curriculum Committee

- 36 proposals for new courses and changes in existing ones were submitted to the UCC. The UCC approved 27 course proposals (75% of all submitted).
- 13 proposals for degree plan changes were submitted to the UCC. The UCC approved all of them.
- Course proposals can now be electronically submitted. Interested parties can electronically follow the status of the workflow.
- Degree plan proposals cannot be electronically submitted yet.
- More than 100 new core course proposals are expected to be submitted to the UCC in the next weeks.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Nothing new to report since last Senate meeting. Committee will be meeting with President and Provost on Friday to determine new charges or priorities.

Shared Governance Task Force

Policy is almost finished; it is in the final formatting stage. The policy will be presented to the Senate within the next several weeks. There is a statement about the current shared government policy and practices available from Dr. Schmertz.

Changes made to the policy include:

- Articulated role of faculty and administration
- Timelines
- Added Dean's and Chair's Councils into the policy flow
- Added Faculty Senate into the policy flow
- Defined and differentiated types of committees
- Provisions for minutes and agendas
- How shared governance should work in departments and colleges

Faculty Handbook Task Force

Past Presidents Allen and Lyons will join the task force, and it will resume its work next week.

Common Core Revision

Accomplished:

- Component Committees Organized
- Timeline Established

- Learning Outcomes Completed
- Faculty Developing Courses

Timeline Left:

- Courses due from Deans to Component Committees—Now
- Courses due to Task Force—February 15th
- Courses due to UCC—April 5th
- Courses due to Provost—June 14th
- Courses due to THECB—November 2013

Changes: Any changes to be reviewed by Interim Provost

Retention Committee

- The Retention Task Force is devoted to developing and implementing strategies for improving retention and graduation rates at UHD. The task force has been meeting on a weekly basis since fall 2012.
- For more information about the task force's activities, visit <http://library.uhd.edu/studentsuccess>
- A key goal is to write a FROG, i.e. Freshman Retention and Graduation Plan.
- Some major issues under discussion are:
 - Freshman Orientation/Convocation/Registration
 - Academic Advising/Tracking of FTIC's
 - Early Alert
 - Faculty development for retention
 - Barrier Courses
 - Data collection
 - Academic structure of first-year experience

Introduction of Provost Hugetz: Dr. Flores and Provost Hugetz

Dr. Flores welcomed everyone, especially the SGA representatives.

This legislative session, UHD will have two primary requests:

1. A new Science and Technology building.
2. Student Success Initiatives

There is a huge gap between the money available and what we need (and get) from the state. We have the second lowest tuition and the lowest appropriations of any public institution. This fall, one of every eight new students in the state came to UHD.

TSI will go into effect next fall. We must be ready to place students based on these scores.

We need discussions about security. Concealed weapons on campus may be a reality this legislative session.

Funding may soon be based on completion rates and other factors. Last year we were lowest in the state for six-year graduation rates. We will see a different type of students come in with the advent of admissions standards.

Dr. Flores introduced Provost Hugetz, describing him as collegial, a good listener, and a team player. His position will only be as Interim, and he will not be in the applicant pool for the permanent position.

Provost Hugetz described his experiences prior to coming to UHD. [This information can be located in his official bio]

Hugetz described his initial observations of UHD.

1. We are doing too much with too few resources. We are stretched thin as staff and faculty.
 - a. We need to determine what is most urgent to do? What must be done now? What can be simplified?
2. We must fix the advising issues. We have many more students than our advisors can handle. This creates situations in which students self-advise and take unnecessary classes.
3. Working on the Common Core.
 - a. Good work has been done, but there is more to do.
 - b. The core does need to be redone.
 - c. The three most important undergraduate competencies are critical thinking, communication, and quantitative analysis, and these should be addressed in the core.
4. We need to increase transparency with the budget process. We should be able to talk together about the budget in detail and with specific purpose.

Hugetz described the challenges ahead for public universities. Students now spend only 10 hours per week studying, in contrast to 40 years ago when they spent more than 20 hours studying. It is not what you are taught that matters, it is what you learn. Students are getting better grades for learning less.

Hugetz also described an award that he is interested in starting. It will be the “First Penguin” Award for someone who is not afraid to risk failure or success by trying something new.

Question and Answer Session: Dr. Flores and Provost Hugetz

How will you advocate for UHD having come from the System and UH?

Hugetz: By putting forward best effort to get the three outstanding degree programs pushed through. He has always been a bit of an outsider. For example, when at UH was on the UHCL faculty. UH’s mission statement has meaning for him.

If we are doing too much, what is the fix? Raise tuition? Less work?

Hugetz: Working on too many projects dilutes effort. The issue is not working less, it is working differently. The tuition issue will be decided by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents, although students will be involved in the discussion.

How can General Education and the Common Core be integrated? Will we discuss this in the future?

Hugetz: General Education does need attention, and the Common Core has brought that to light. We need to put the “energy” back into the core again to make it interesting and fun.

Flores: There is frustration that General Education around the state is fragmented and is not a cohesive, comprehensive approach to education.

How will the Institutional Options be used and how will they fit in to the rest of the core? How are the other system campuses handling the six hours?

Libby Barlow at UH has reportedly collected information on the Institutional Option from across the state.

Hugetz: States he needs to catch up to where we are. Eighty to 90 courses have been submitted. One intriguing option is the Freshman Seminar. Can't give a specific answer at this time, but the Faculty Senate can be involved in the discussion.

Information on the Core Curriculum is available on the UHD Library website at: <http://library.uhd.edu/corecurriculum2014>. Fact sheets from different universities that were presented at the SACS conference are available at: <http://www.tccia.org/sacscoc-december-2012.html>.

Adjourn: 4:03 pm