

# UHD Faculty Senate Out of Cycle Meeting

Minutes recorded by: Michael Cavanaugh  
November 30 2018 11:02-11:48 am  
UHD Milam/Travis Room

**Senate:** Hsiao-Ming Wang, Susan Henney, Michael Cavanaugh, Susan Baker, Maria Benavides, Kristen Capuozzo, Shannon Fowler, Felicia Harris, Karen Kaser, Cynthia Lloyd, Stephen Miller, Laura Mitchell, Mitsue Nakamura, Andrew Pavelich, Vida Robertson, Rachna Sadana, Nell Sullivan, Pat Williams

**Guests:** Juan Munoz, President; Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds; Darlene Hodge, FS Admin; Ed Cueva, Professor; Michelle Moosally, Associate Professor; Paul Mandell, Associate Professor; Katherine Jager, Associate Professor; Joan Wedes, Lecturer; Poonam Gulati Salhotra, Associate Professor; M. Gabriela Bowden, Associate Professor; Mary Jo Parker, Lecturer and Scholars Academy Director; Mike Duncan, Associate Professor; P. Morris Smith, Professor; Phil Lyons, Associate Professor; Jean Nganou, Assistant Professor; Candace TenBrink, Associate Professor; Linda Becerra, Professor; Akif Uzman, Dean of CST; Jerry Johnson, AVP Research

**Call to order:** The meeting was started at 11:02 pm by Senate President Hsiao-Ming Wang.

Senate President Wang thanked everyone for coming out on short notice on a Friday and wanted to thank President Munoz for making time to talk with the Senate. The out of cycle meeting happened due to President Munoz being out of town for next week's regular Senate meeting.

Dr. Wang explained that this was not a formal Senate meeting, thus no quorum required. He also thanked Provost Hugetz, Liza Alonzo, and David Bradley for helping with faculty parking on a Friday.

Dr. Wang turned the floor over to President Munoz who was to talk about 4 major things:

- Faculty Input
- Provost Hugetz' continued status at UHD
- Legislative Items and Requests
- Experiential undergraduate experiences

President Munoz thanked everyone for showing up saying that he knows it is a busy time but he appreciates their time so he will try to keep it short.

He appreciated the input on the commencement speaker and he appreciates the time spent on that input. The fall commencement speaker will be announced later but he can say that it will be a good speaker who has previously served in a Texas state agency and is currently a business leader in the state.

On the second subject of Mr. Hugetz remaining at UHD, this is true, but he will serve in a different capacity. Mr. Hugetz will remain on as a special assistant to the president in a part-time role. He will primarily help out with the PeopleSoft transition, although he will also assist Provost Link with the Texas legislative session and UHD budget process. There also may be some current initiatives that he stays involved with as well.

As for the legislative requests, President Munoz explained that we are asking for some money to go to flood mitigation efforts so that we don't encounter the same issues that we saw during Harvey. All told we had about \$9 million in damages and have only received close to \$1 million (insurance should pay us \$4.5 million soon).

We are also asking for a fee increase to fund a new Student Wellness Center. The current center was designed for a student population of around 7,000 students, so we have outgrown it and the new center will reflect our 14,000+ student population. As evidence for the request, the university held referendums in 2017 and 2018, where students overwhelmingly supported a fee increase to build a new center, 62% (2017) and 74% (2018). Even with the fee, President Munoz explained that we will still be the most affordable school in Houston. This can help with retention and graduation.

We are requesting \$ 15 million in onetime spending. A little over half of this money (about 7 million) would go to turning the old Student Center into a true Student Union.

The other portion of the \$15 million would be used to build the final floor on the Girard building. The idea is that all student services could move there, setting up a one-stop shop for students.

One final funding request is for the Arts, Sciences, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship Center (a little over \$19 million). It is very unlikely to get funded but it is one of those additional requests that are added on the off chance that the Texas legislature is being generous this budget cycle.

President Munoz also made mention of experiential undergraduate experiences. Things such as undergraduate research, study abroad, service learning, and internships should be available to all students. Paid internships are especially important for our students. Not all students will take advantage of the opportunity, but they should have the opportunity. UHD should recognize these things on student transcripts, to help further separate our students from other job candidates when they are on the market. We need to highlight these experiential undergraduate experiences and codify and organize these things better.

President Munoz then indicated that he was open to answering any questions.

Q – Dr. Andrew Pavelich asked about what prompted the changes in the commencement speaker and why? And what were any lessons going forward?

A – Dr. Munoz indicated that he had listened to the concerns. He was thinking about moving forward – possibly having a commencement speaker committee. He is open to the committee idea, although there has been no decision yet. He also met with faculty and students and he came to the conclusion that there is no challenge that willing people cannot find a solution to.

Q – A guest asked if President Munoz knew what percentage of students get at least one of these highlighted experiences?

A – President Munoz indicated that he just had a meeting on this and he asked for the numbers. We were pretty good with internships, had high service learning, active study abroad, and were better in certain areas than others when it came to undergraduate research.

Dr. Jerry Johnson added that last academic year 8-12% of FTICs received one of these, but we really don't track it well.

President Munoz also said we need a better baseline, maybe a report card. We need to differentiate ourselves from the market. It is no longer enough to say we are the cheapest. We need to highlight the transformative qualities of UHD.

Dr. Susan Henney mentioned that a number of degree plans already require one of these things, so these numbers should be higher. One thing to keep in mind is that some of these internships will be in non-profits so paid internships may not be the norm.

Dr. Vida Robertson added that study abroad, internships, and research will probably look very different in different fields. Hopefully, we can look at the intersectionality of the issues.

President Munoz made the suggestion that an advisory committee for this experiential undergraduate experiences may be needed.

Dr. Jerry Johnson said that this does not work in a vacuum and faculty input is needed.

Dr. Michelle Moosally thanked President Munoz for engaging with the faculty and being receptive to the input on the commencement speaker. As for experiential learning, she suggested that we could start by contacting faculty internship coordinators because there is probably already a lot out there. For International study abroad, there has been numerous problems in the past and we need to get those problems fixed.

President Munoz acknowledged the issues and the need to fix the problems but said that study abroad should be emphasized and can transform a student. It is especially important for our students, some of whom have never left the state (or metro area).

President Munoz closed by asking the Senate to identify specific topics that they would like for him to speak on when he gives his regular Senate updates. He would like to talk about the most important issues for the UHD Senate.

Senate President Wang thanks everyone for attending the meeting and closes the meeting at 11:48 am.