

# UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Michael Cavanaugh  
November 19, 2019 2:33 - 4:04 pm  
UHD Travis/Milam room

**Senate:** Michael Duncan, Ronald Beebe, Hsiao-Ming Wang, Michael Cavanaugh, Franklin Allaire, Alexander Bielakowski, Dexter Cahoy, Kristen Capuozzo, Stephanie Coleman, Prakash Deo, Isaac Elking, Krista Gehring, Angela Goins, Felicia Harris, Tahereh Jafari, Timothy Klein, Cynthia Lloyd, Steve London, Jeffery Martz, Laura Mitchell, Mitsue Nakamura, Andrew Pavelich, Joseph Sample, Johanna Schmertz, Jace Valcore, Pat Williams, Ting Zhang.

**Absent:** Maria Benavides, Susan Henney, Pamela Hurley, Nathan Neale, Julie Wilson.

**Guests:** Juan Munoz, President; Eric Link, Provost/VPAA; David Bradley, VPAF; Jerry Johnson, AVP Faculty, Research, and Sponsored Programs; Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds; Darlene Hodge, FS Admin; Pat Ensor, Library Director; Anne Zwicky, Interlibrary Loan & Distance Education Librarian; Michelle Moosally, Associate Professor; Akif Uzman, Dean CST; Scott Marzilli, Dean UC; Katherine Jager, Associate Professor and Chair of Gen Ed; Michael Wilson, Lecturer; Chris Stempinski, Library Assistant Director, Public Services; Rachna Sadana, Chair of Natural Sciences; Toni Hoang, Assistant Chair of Arts and Communication; Lea Campbell, Director of Academic Assessment; Claude Rubinson, Associate Professor, Rhonda Scherer, Sports & Fitness/Staff Council; William Waters; Associate Professor; Gene Preuss, Associate Professor.

**Call to order:** The Senate was called to order at 2:33 pm by Senate President Michael Duncan.

## Minutes

Minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

## Reports

Mr. David Bradley came to Senate and gave a presentation on the progress of major construction projects to impact UHD in the next few years (see attached).

Opened the floor to questions

Q - Will they tear down I-10?

A - Mr. Bradley answered in the affirmative and said that the interstate will be relocated. The I-10 section will likely open earlier than the I-45 section.

Q - Have there been any conversations about exchanging properties with TXDOT?

A - Yes. Mr. Bradley explained that this is pretty much what is going on. However, they will need their property first to start the construction, so buying properties from each other will actually occur at different points of time.

Q - What will happen to the student life center?

A - According to Mr. Bradley, the student life center will be repurposed for a true student union.

### **Discussion**

Dr. Duncan read a statement (see attached) on the issue of campus safety/security for faculty when faced with a physical threat. He explained that the process needs to be clear and this is a fundamental shared governance item.

Discussion ensued.

I'm ignorant of what happened and really don't know what is going on in this situation.

We need a much clearer explanation of what happens when a threat occurs on campus.

Who should give us this information? Police? Disciplinary Committee?

I am unsure. Student Affairs and Police can be asked, but procedures are not clear.

I would support it, but we need clarity. If I am threatened by a student, am I allowed to tell anyone about it?

FERPA allows you to report the threat, however, talking about it afterwards gets murky.

Can we ask law enforcement from UHD or another agency (Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, etc.) to talk with us about this issue?

Maybe Chief Benford, Legal Counsel and the Dean of Students.

In the past, we would contact Tommy Thomason about this type of issue.

Is there now a go to person since Tommy left?

Dr. Duncan suggested that we could ask the guests for advice on this situation.

Provost Link indicated that if someone is threatening you - Call the police (911 for emergencies). We have staff to deal with these situations and we have a Dean of Students, Meritza Tamez. If you are having difficulty on figuring out who to contact, please contact my office and we will help you.

The process is important.

So the Dean of Students is a good 1st place to start? Do the police then get notified?

Provost Link said yes the Dean of Students is a good starting place. As for the second question, it depends on the situation. The UHD Police Department and Dean of Students' office will coordinate on certain situations although they will have different processes. The Dean of Students is currently working on a one-page handout for faculty as for what to do when threatened.

Dr. Jerry Johnson said that once this handout is complete it will be included in orientation and given to Senate. The timeline is a bit up in the air as they are prioritizing getting it correct over getting it done quickly.

Provost Link further explained that when the draft is completed it will go to FSEC, the cabinet, posted to the web, etc. We want all faculty to see this and for all of them to feel safe at UHD.

If something were to happen tomorrow, would faculty be penalized for reaching out to Law Enforcement or for potential FERPA violations?

I'm not sure anyone knows at this point.

Right now, it sounds like we should contact the police and the Dean of Students if these type of issues arise.

The follow-up on this issue will be instructive.

### **Initiatives**

Dr. Beebe gave an update on the work of the workload committee. He passed out handouts (see attached). He brought this to the Senate to discuss the Senate's views on priorities, reasons why, and whether these issues should be addressed.

Discussion on the topic occurred.

Maybe we can add that tenured faculty must serve on a major committee. The language right now limits some people and some departments cannot actually meet this requirement.

That language is actually already in the constitution.

Committee on Credentials and Elections (CCE) can and should enforce the rule.

Dr. Michelle Moosally said that CCE should enforce the rule and CCE has the authority to enforce it. There are some suggestions that don't need to go through constitution changes. For example, Senate can advise committees to do things even though it doesn't have the authority to enforce it. For example, just tell some committees to only meet as needed.

Q - Only 1 of the 9 proposals requires a policy change?

A - According to Dr. Beebe, Yes. But the course approval process would involve a little more discussion too.

Q - What are these committees that should be shut down, sunsetted, etc.? What are they?

A - Dr. Beebe explained the information we received came from the Provost's office and the website. Committees should have charges and they should have reasons for why these people are on them. These two should be high on the list.

Q - Dr. Moosally indicated that these were good ideas. Does the subcommittee have the authority to do this? What does implementation look like? Advice?

A - Dr. Beebe said that we know we do not have the authority but we can start the process.

Dr. Pavelich explained that the committee wanted to bring these to Senate in order to determine whether these were good ideas. While the course proposal and search committee reduction would take more work, we can still evaluate the ideas.

Senate has the ability to charge people to do things. Can we charge someone to do something?

I think we could.

Dr. Schmertz made a motion to implement the following committee reduction proposals from the ad hoc workload committee : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9. The motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Schmertz moved that the ad hoc committee bring proposals 6 and 8 to the Senate floor for further exploration.

Dr. Moosally said that number 6 was something that had been worked on before. We had advocated for a separate policy for an administrative search. A new policy may be a good idea. Also, educating faculty on the basics of these issues prior to asking them for feedback on Qualtrics may be needed.

The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Dr. Pavelich presented a Core Assessment Resolution Draft (see attached). He explained that he may feel differently than members of Senate but thought that this should be discussed in Senate.

Dr. Pavelich made a motion to consider the draft resolution and Dr. Bielakowski seconded the motion.

Discussion on the draft occurred.

We assess the core through Signature Assignments. Maybe we should ask what other universities are doing. Is this just a problem with the signature assignment or something else? Standardized testing may be the alternative for us, which would be terrible.

I do not like the Signature Assignments but I would like to see the options. I am not for standardized testing.

Dr. Katherine Jager explained that all other universities have something similar in place and it is typically required. We are fairly unique in that some of our faculty do not submit. Relatively speaking, we have a less invasive core assessment and more autonomy in the process than many other institutions.

Dr. Moosally indicated that she is sympathetic to the processes. The Gen-Ed process is not refined yet. We should be asking these types of questions. However, I am worried about some of the claims - grades=assessment, 50 artifacts. Leave the questions in, but the questionable claims out.

Dr. Pavelich said that he can take the last "whereas" out. He was seeing a disconnect between grades and assessment results, which is why it was originally included.

Dr. Jager agreed with Dr. Pavelich and said he was not alone in seeing the disconnect. The rubrics are standardized and there were questions about norming the process the last time, but they are led by the

same person each time and it is consistent. We may need to prioritize different things in the artifact (i.e., structure over grammar). Ultimately, grades do not really measure performance.

We need to increase 30% participation.

Dr. Pavelich made a motion to table the draft resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Felicia Harris brought up an issue related to University College. She explained that University College, through the BAAS and BSIS programs, was duplicating courses in other departments (i.e., digital literacy). This was done on applied courses by using catchy course titles. This could take away SCHs from other departments.

Dean Marzilli explained that University College houses two degrees BS-IS and BAAS-AA. Some of these courses are actually BS-IS special topics courses, which may have been the cause of some issues. However, the digital literacy class proposal was pulled.

Dr. Harris explained that other members of the faculty were invited and wanted to speak.

Dr. William Waters said he is currently on the University College Curriculum Support Committee (UCCSC) and there was no opportunity to meet with the committee. Furthermore, on curriculog there is no opportunity to vote "no."

Dr. Gene Preuss indicated that he was chair of the UCCSC and there were definitely issues. However, we did have an opportunity to meet, but this was declined. There was a previous standard where only full-time faculty could propose courses, which was a problem. This current proposal was a special topics course so it should not have gone through curriculog. Who notifies faculty about a proposal? The responsibility falls to members of the committee.

Disagreement over the committee procedures occurred.

Dean Marzilli said that University College is a unique college. He explained that they are filling the open spots on the committee and he believes the policy (please see attached) probably needs review. Unanimity is not always possible amongst ten people but the committee will work together. I would be happy to work with anyone.

Dr. Toni Hoang said that the major concern is with the APAL courses, not the special topics. We would be happy to work with you to develop courses that would help your students.

Dr. Duncan indicates that we are running low on time but that he wanted to make a couple more announcements. The first is that President Munoz has gifted Faculty Senate with \$5,000. The thought is that we can use the money for refreshments (and snacks). This averages out to about \$300+ per meeting. We will send a Qualtrics survey out about the idea soon. The second issue is canceling the last Senate meeting during a reading day (December 3rd).

Dr. Klein made a motion to move the next meeting until the new semester and adjourn the current meeting. Dr. Bielakowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.