

DRAFT
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
Meeting: March 24, 2009

PRESENT: M. Moosally, B. Belbot, T. Davis, B. Christmas, J. Creighton, J. Dutcher, T. Emeka, J. Flosi, B. Gilbert, T. Hale, S. Henney, L. Hignite, N. Leveille, C. Nguyen, D. Nino, A. Pavelich, J. Pavletich, K. Pinkerton, N. Rangel, T. Redl, A. Rejaie, R. Robbins, K. Robertson, D. Ryden, J. Schmertz, J. Yoon, Z. Zhou

ABSENT: J. Caro, A. Gomez-Rivas, O. Gupta, A. Kane, P. Lyons, K. McLellan, S. Penkar, P. Simeonov

GUESTS: Provost M. Woods, VP D. Bradley, Library Director P. Ensor, K. Alfaro, E. Apodaca, R. Boyle, J. Cantu, P. Cureton, P. Evergreen, G. Getz, J. Jackson, C. Kimberly, C. McCall, C. Snell, K. Stokes

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

Minutes were not available. February 17 minutes and March 3 minutes will be approved via an email vote.

Senate President Moosally's Report

A copy of Senate President Moosally's report was distributed (see attached).

Senator Redl asked about the status of the UHD President's search. President Moosally said that it is continuing and the search committee plans to bring candidates to campus during the first two weeks of May.

Senator Rangel reminded the faculty of the Smack Down on April 16 between students and faculty. He encouraged participation and said that faculty wanted to get the Smack Down going so that it will be held again in the fall semester 2009.

Senate elections will be running soon. President Moosally encouraged faculty to participate so they can have a strong faculty senate in the fall.

President Moosally asked VP Bradley about the keys/fobs for classroom access. VP Bradley said the fobs will be available by March 30. An email explaining the use of the fobs will go out soon. Access cards will then be utilized for entry into the faculty/staff parking garage; fobs will be needed for classroom entry. The fobs should open all classrooms.

Old Business

1. The Governor's Initiative: At UH System level, there seems to be some interest in complying with some parts of the initiative, but there may be political reasons for compliance. The discussions are focused on posting syllabi. The UFEC discussion

demonstrated concern about intellectual property issues in regard to syllabi. UHD's syllabi were posted for SACS. There are concerns about problems that may occur when students see an out-dated syllabus on a website and then see a different (new) syllabus upon registering for the class. The general conversation at the UH System level has not been as favorable as hoped. The general perception of UFEC is that faculty still need to put out a statement regarding the governor's initiative. Senator Leveille asked if the governor's office could be asked exactly what they wanted to be posted—instead of faculty having to post a full syllabus. Senate President Moosally said that they are still discussing what “syllabus” is. Senator Christmas said that there are legal issues; he says that he would like to see our administration “resist” compliance with the governor's initiative. To the best of President Moosally's understanding, UHD, UH-Clearlake, and UH-Victoria have not responded and are not responding in any way to the initiative. The concern is that the UH System seems to be considering some (small) level of compliance. Furthermore, there is a concern that UH compliance would imply that UHD agrees with that compliance.

The Resolution on the governor's initiative, which was previously tabled, was brought forward for discussion. The Resolution was changed to read “UHD leadership, the UH System, the BOR.....” Senator Henney wanted to request justification using published empirical evidence for the use of student evaluations for determining faculty raises and/or bonuses. It was suggested that the Resolution be sent to UHD administration, the UH System Office, the UH BOR, and the legal department as well as to the other university senates in the UH System. Senator Flosi moved to approve the Resolution as amended. The vote was: 1 abstention, all others in favor of the Resolution.

2. Dr. Castillo asked for an update on the Student Success Conference to be held at UHD on March 27. Senate President Moosally reported that there are 180 registrants.
3. Dr. Castillo said the only announcement that he has is the question of how the general revenue will come out in this legislative session. He has requested from the CFO that we look at a general revenue budget of 2% increase in enrollment—with a designated tuition increase that will be below 5%. The bill seems to be saying that aggregate tuition fees not be increased more than 5%. Using a 5% increase in tuition and adding an advising fee would allow UHD to address some of the issues of advising (advising appears to be a major concern at the state level). Dr. Castillo reiterated that advising is very important for UHD students. This approach would generate revenues to address some of the advising needs. Dr. Castillo does not know when the markup on the general revenue bill and budget will be released. He seems to think that UHD will do fairly well and will keep the faculty informed as information becomes available
4. Dr. Castillo expects that BOR Chair Welcome Wilson will want to discuss name selection when he attends the Faculty Senate meeting on April 21. Dr. Castillo suggested that BOR Chair Wilson will probably ask for input on how to proceed or perhaps discuss hiring another consulting firm. Such an action could not happen overnight—as an RFP would have to be requested. Senator Schmertz asked whether there would be a name change. Dr. Castillo said that you go with what the people with the authority say, and the

BOR has said this is now a name selection process. Senator Flosi asked about the new building. Dr. Castillo reported that he does not know at this point whether it will be funded but it is still on the list. Senator Flosi asked if feedback had been given on the space audit that had been done before spring break. It was reported by Chris McCall that they could share the summary: there was a minimum of 5 labs out of 35 rooms. The audit included primarily the Academic Building and the Commerce Building. VP Bradley pointed out that there is probably not the kind of information that Senator Flosi would like to have. C. McCall said that there will be new guidelines, i.e. seats filled with targets to fill seats in the room and labs. UHD is supposed to hit 75%--85%.

5. Provost Woods reported that the UH Director of Research wants to visit UHD to discuss research opportunities. This will be scheduled during the fall. She also reported that the mission statement and the table of programs are still out there. TEA will visit UHD's education program next year. Dr. Castillo reported that UHD's designation as an MSI (Minority Serving Institution) institution has been renewed.
6. Senator S. Henney pointed out that UHD does not have a federal registration number which is needed in order to get federal research funding. When a UHD faculty member gets a federal grant, the grant has to be run out of another university and that university gets the indirect money from the grant. Senator Henney asked Dr. Castillo if UHD intended to file an application that would make it possible for UHD to receive federal grant monies. President Castillo indicated he would look into the matter.
7. Senator Flosi made a motion to endorse the resolution from TCFS on concealed weapons being allowed on university campuses in Texas. The motion passed unanimously. President Moosally will send it to Grover Campbell, the UHD administration, and the UH System Office.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senate President Moosally asked if faculty have any ideas about the discussion needed during the upcoming visit from BOR Chair Welcome Wilson. Senator Flosi said that he would like to have more explicit rules in regard to the name selection, e.g. the inclusion of Houston in the name. He called for "honest and fixed parameters." Senator Flosi gave the example of the rule that no historic names would be acceptable—then the name Sequin State University popping up on the list. Senator Lyons would like to request that the people who are calling the shots are known, i.e. who decides what is confusing, and he would like to know who decides the name selection. Senator Lyons suggested that the consulting firm should consider how to implement the process. Senator Pavletich wanted to ask why the BOR made the decision to change the name. Senator Christmas said that the reasons for the change have been enumerated a thousand times. Senator Ryden said that there have been inconsistencies. Senator Christmas said that you might disagree with the reasons, but the reasons have been enumerated. President Moosally said that there have been questions raised that people feel have not been satisfactorily answered. She would like to have people feel that they know why the name change happened and who

would be making the decision on the selection of the new name. Senator Pinkerton asked if we should ask if the name change is going to happen in two years. President Moosally thinks that it is appropriate question. President Moosally said that the name change should not be done as some isolated event but should be accompanied by some other event—e.g. the notion of admission standards. She said she is not necessarily questioning open admission elimination, but the question is how do we want to position ourselves to attract those who are more qualified and those who are admitted under open admissions. President Moosally said that open admissions is not viewed all that favorably at the state level and that there has been discussion about open admissions being limited to community colleges.

2. Senator Flosi asked that FSEC take note of the number of placards/senators who are not attending and consider whether they are representing their departments adequately.

3. President Moosally said that alternative energy will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy J. Davis
Secretary-Treasurer