

**President's Report
Presented to the UHD Faculty Senate
September 20, 2011**

Here is my report to the UHD Faculty Senate for September 20, 2011.

Since the Senate last met on September 6, the following 4 issues have developed, emerged, or ongoing:

1. *Executive Council.* Gene and I attended Executive Council last Tuesday. (The President holds this meeting monthly.) I took three things away from this meeting:
 - a. *Admission Standards and Student Support.* We are going forward with admission standards, which will be based (generally) on the proposal developed by the Admission Standards Subcommittee. Drs. Flores, Chapman, and Montgomery have been working with Dr. Khator's office to determine the best way to approach the Regents and legislators. Going forward with this change, however, will require us to expand many support structures to help our students succeed. On this note, Dean Chris Birchak presented a report on a number of small programs that have been quite successful in helping students along (the SI program for example), but which will need to be scaled up in the near future. I would like at some point to invite Dean Birchak to the Senate to present these ideas, so we can figure out how to work through the various challenges involved in ramping up these programs.
 - b. *Recruiting and Retention.* Jose Cantu gave an interesting presentation about UHD's competition and the challenges that we face. I found it to be enlightening I have invited him and Dr. Montgomery to come to the Senate and give a presentation on that issue. We may also want—although this would be in the jurisdiction of a different division in the university—to discuss issues related to marketing and branding.
 - c. *Program Building.* One of the solutions that was suggested (by Dr. Chapman) to help with enrollment and retention was to focus on increasing UHD's program offerings—both undergraduate and graduate. Dr. Chapman has been going around the university making similar statements in meetings with departments. I just want to give him some support here. I know that UHD has been discouraged over the years from offering new degrees (especially graduate degrees). Dr. Chapman says that the mood at the system has changed since UH when to tier 1, and we are now encouraged and expected to offer new programs, and he has assured me that funding can be found for promising start ups. I think we ought to seize this moment and unleash our creativity and find ways to attract and retain students. New programs won't solve the enrollment challenges on their own, but this is an area where faculty can take the initiative.

2. *Grievance Committee Elections.* The CEC has just completed the elections for the replacements of Faculty Senate (although an election in ET is not yet complete, and there will have to be a run-off). My plan was to charge the CEC with the Grievance Committee elections right after the announcement of the Senate elections. A complication has emerged since then. The Grievance Committee met last week and elected a chair. I am conflicted as to whether to proceed at this point, and I am getting conflicting advice as to how to go forward. I will keep you posted about this issue.

3. *Search Committees.* FSEC has noticed that a few search committees for assistant-vice-president-level positions have not been very representative. (The search committee for the assistant VP on Sponsored Programs for example is heavily weighted with people from CST.) We are working on getting this remedied. I will keep you posted.

4. *Policies.* A few emergency policies came down in the summer. Either Dr. Chapman or I will be sending them to the appropriate policy writing committees as *per* PS 01.A.01. There are a few policies (ORCA for example) that have worked their way through the approval process, but have not yet been signed by the president. We are tracking those down to find out what has happened and will determine what needs to be done.

5. *Rank and Tenure and Shared Governance Resolutions.* I will be meeting with Dr. Flores and Dr. Chapman tomorrow to discuss the resolutions we approved at the last Senate meeting.