

UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Sandra Dahlberg
September 6, 2016; 2:30-3:45pm
Room A300

Attendance: Carolyn Ashe, Julio Canedo Soto, Luis Cedeno, Michael Connell, Travis Crone, Sandra Dahlberg, Michael Duncan, Trevor Hale, Jillian Hill, Pamela Hurley, Ruth Johnson, Robin Jose, Anne Kane, Stephanie Karas, Cynthia Lloyd, Kendra Mhoon, Creshema Murray, Mitsue Nakamura, Ryan Pepper, Anand Pore, Azar Rejaie, Jacqueline Sack, Clete Snell, Benjamin Soibam, Michael Tobin, Hsiao-Ming Wang, Pat Williams, Keith Wright, Zhenyu Zhang.

By Invitation: Interim President Olivas, Interim Provost Hugetz, Interim Police Chief Deleon

Regrets: Karen Kaser, JoAnn Pavletich, Joan Wedes

Absent: Erin Hodgess

Call to Order: The Senate was called to order at 2:30pm by Senate President Dr. Carolyn Ashe.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:45pm.

SB 11 Campus Carry

- Interim President Olivas and Interim Provost Hugetz reviewed the requirements of SB 11 Campus Carry, and reiterated that, like it or not, the law must be followed. There was a brief discussion about the line between 1st Amendment rights and 2nd Amendment rights, and Interim President Olivas stated that faculty cannot post “no guns allowed” signs for their offices since it violates the legislation.
- Interim President Olivas invited the Senate to the President’s Address on Thursday, September 8.

Faculty Ombuds

- Dr. Tyra Hessel is the new UHD Faculty Ombuds. Dr. Hessel introduced herself to the Senate and identified her role as a resource for faculty regarding their rights and the workplace environment, and as an agent for change if Dr. Hessel identifies repeated confusion or misapplication of policy.

Contact information for the Faculty Ombuds:

713-221-5841 (a private line only for Ombuds issues) Ombuds office: N276

ombuds@uhd.edu

URL: <https://www.uhd.edu/academics/faculty-resources/ombuds-index.aspx>

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) for 2016-2017

- Dr. Travis Crone (SOS) and Dr. Robin Jose (NS) were elected to FSEC by acclamation. One position is vacant.

FSEC meets at 2:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in S626, and with the Provost on Fridays.

FSEC members will attend the Provost's Policy Retreat on Friday, September 9. Members of the shared governance committees will also attend.

Announcements

- Over the summer, FSEC compiled the input provided (last year) by the Senate and faculty for the Rank and Tenure Policy (PS 10.A.02) and the Grievance Policy (PS 10.A.02) and forwarded these to the Faculty Affairs Committee.
- UHD will host the University of Houston System Conference on March 31, 2017. The conference focus is graduate education. A call for presentation proposals will be forthcoming.
- Faculty Senate will soon have the resources of an administrative assistant and a student worker. Senate is also being provided with a new room to replace the old one on 6-south. The Senate webpage is being updated and will include current committee memberships.
- The Search Committee for a new UHD president is holding airport interviews on September 16 and 17. The top 4-5 candidates will be identified by October and invited to campus.

Faculty Concerns—Foci for Senate this year.

Dr. Ashe asked the Senate to identify issues the Senate should address this year. The following issues were identified by Senators:

- Workload reduction, using the research collected last year (Hill).
- Funding opportunities for lecturers' research (Karas).
- An examination of FTIC initiatives in relation to graduation rates and student success, and how to strengthen our efforts (Canedo).
- Changes to representation on committees and senate as a result of the organizational changes to CHSS and COB. Dr. Ashe noted that the Senate constitution may need to be revised and updated to reflect the changes (Rejaie).
- Online instruction, specifically faculty and students who feel "forced" to engage in online instruction but would prefer face-to-face instruction. Cheating is another issue with online courses (Wright and Kane).
- Faculty raises (Hale).

Senators will ask their faculty to identify other issues and submit them to the Senate. Dr. Ashe also will email the faculty to ask them what issues they want the faculty to address this year.

Campus Carry with Interim Police Chief Deleon and Dr. Susan Henney (Campus Carry Workgroup Chair)

- Interim Chief Deleon stated that the UHD Police had received no calls on Campus Carry.
- UHD police officers received training for SB 11 Campus Carry.
- UHD Police is doing educational outreach to students regarding Campus Carry, including a pizza-with-police event.
- Several senators asked questions of Interim Chief Deleon and Dr. Henney, including the identification of gun-free locations/rooms on campus, the issue of securing a gun before entering a gun-free location, and asking that the rationale for determining gun-free locations be made public.
- Dr. Henney stated that **UHD Policy, under the broad authority SB 11 gave to university presidents**, provides for temporary signage (a temporary gun-free location) for events, especially if a speaker might incite controversy.

Senate was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

The next Senate meeting is on September 20, 2016.