

UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Michael Cavanaugh
December 4 2018 2:33-4:07 pm
UHD A-300

Senate: Hsiao-Ming Wang, Susan Henney, Michael Cavanaugh, Susan Baker, Maria Benavides, Ray Cao, Stephanie Coleman, David Epstein, Shannon Fowler, Angela Goins, Felicia Harris, Pamela Hurley, Karen Kaser, Stephen Miller, Laura Mitchell, Mitsue Nakamura, Vida Robertson, Joseph Sample, Nell Sullivan, Jace Valcore, Pat Williams, Ting Zhang, Zehai Zhou

Absent: Michael Duncan (FFL), Beverly Alford, Kristen Capuozzo, Cynthia Lloyd, Steve London (due to Student's Senior Project), Andrew Pavelich, Rebecca Quander (due to student's Senior Project), Rachna Sadana, Johanna Schmertz

Guests: Ed Hugetz, Provost/VPAA; Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds; Jerry Johnson, AVP Research; Darlene Hodge, FS Admin; Pat Ensor, Library Director; Michelle Moosally, Associate Professor; Faiza Khoja AVP Academic Affairs; Bill Waller, Professor; Walter Blanchard, Adjunct Professor; Scott Marzilli, Dean of University College

Call to order: The Senate was called to order at 2:33 pm by Senate President Hsiao-Ming Wang.

Minutes

Minutes of November 6th, 2018 Senate meeting were approved unanimously.

Reports

Provost Hugetz gave a report on the Field of study issue. Dr. Wang mentioned the Joint letter from UT and TAMU. However, prior to getting into the issue, Provost Hugetz wanted to clarify the statewide shutdown that would be occurring tomorrow due to the death of George H.W. Bush. UHD will be open for exams but other functions are only for essential personnel. UHD will notify students about this through the system (text, email) and post the information on the website.

Provost Hugetz handed the senate copies of the reply from the coordinating board to the SACs president (see attachment) about this issue. Everyone read the letter.

Provost Hugetz explained that the law on field of study dates back to 1999 but really hasn't been enforced until recently, with a couple of exceptions (i.e., Biology). Field of study deals with an alignment of lower course classes among all higher education in Texas in specific disciplines. It has become an issue because the coordinating board has begun doing more work in this area.

The legislature also saw an increase in the number of students who are graduating as transfers. More and more of these students have way over 120 hours, so the way the legislature sees it, minimizing the number of hours, through fields of study, is a good thing. Additionally, clear transfer processes are important.

Q – Isn't UHD already doing this with articulation agreements?

A – Provost Hugetz said this is ironic, but we have done this locally not at the state level.

Dr. Susan Henney stated that the coordinating board doesn't have curriculum making authority and a small number of faculty making decisions for all universities in the state doesn't seem to be allowed. Also, the quality control piece mentioned in the letter is disingenuous.

Provost Hugetz indicated that the legislatures have entered into the curriculum and not the coordinating board. This has happened before with the 42-hour core. The discussion is just beginning and it is already coming to a head.

Dr. Henney mentioned that everyone can google their own field of study requirements. Here is a link (<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=7D02BA60-18B8-11E8-A6640050560100A9>).

Q – It seems like the coordinating board is creating an environment in which our students will not go outside of the state. Could this pose problems? Also, when making lower division course changes, this may cause disciplines to make upper division changes, which could pose legal problems under the Texas code.

A – Provost Hugetz explained that the issue on certain courses can get tricky but sometimes we will have to fix these things.

Another issue is the Social Work field of study doesn't mesh with accreditation.

Provost Hugetz stated that he was pleased that he actually was able to obtain the document and provide it to Senate as this might be his last Senate meeting. The discussion on the topic needs to be better organized and we need to look at what other states are doing.

Q – Dr. Michelle Moosally asked whether the coordinating board was moving forward? She also mentioned that the way they set up the committees posed problems.

A – Mr. Hugetz did not know if the board was moving forward yet.

Announcements

Dr. Wang made announcements

Highlights of UFEC on 11/8

Recap of out-of-cycle senate meeting on 11/30

2019 Faculty Awards Selection Committee

No formal process. Traditionally, all winners of faculty awards will be the following year's faculty award committee members, while the winner of Excellence in Teaching will serve the Committee Chair. Followings are all winners of 2018:

Excellence in Teaching Award: Elizabeth Hatfield (A&C)

Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity Award: Ray Cao (GMSC)

Excellence in Service Award: Trevor Hale

Outstanding Lecturer Award: Abigail Koenig (A&C)

Outstanding Adjunct Award: Richard Simonds (CJSW)

2019 Faculty Climate Survey

Dr. Michael Duncan (Senate President-Elect) will be running the faculty climate survey and he will need two volunteers from Senate to serve on the subcommittee to help him run the survey. Senators Mitsue Nakamura and Dr. Pamela Hurley volunteered.

Old Business

Online rigor

Dr. Wang explained that after receiving feedback from some senators, it seems like this issue is much too broad. We will revisit this issue in the spring by breaking it up into smaller chunks. Possibly, we can invite CTLE to give a report to Senate on the issue.

Bureaucracy and unclear processes – opened back up for discussion.

Dr. Sandra Dahlberg explained that she has arranged four study abroad trips and there are certain procedures that need to be followed, but faculty need support staff, internally, to handle the contracts. A few years ago, faculty had pushed for a position like this in the study abroad office. A person was finally hired in this position, but the position was redefined and the faculty lost the support position.

Q – Is the bureaucracy and unclear processes problem widespread?

A – Dr. Wang explained that this is why we are bringing it up in Senate.

If it is in a specific area, then we should bring it up there.

This issue pervades the university – one example would be contracts to bring a person to the university.

We require too many signatures, too much paperwork, and no deadlines. There is also the issue of the pocket veto where someone doesn't sign something and that simply doesn't allow it to happen. We can make the process much more user friendly.

President Munoz mentioned study abroad in the out of cycle meeting, so attaching it to that could work.

Dr. Moosally added that identifying the key areas is important (things like contracts and study abroad). Special events staff is lacking, so originators have to do things that they shouldn't. We need events staff. Travel is also a problem. E-signatures could help along with hard deadlines.

There is a culture among the staff (the staff are really good though) where they are worried about getting in trouble when they do things for faculty. A meeting between faculty and staff is a good idea. In 2005, there were huge budget cuts at UHD and we lost a bunch of staff. We need more staff.

Dr. Jerry Johnson agreed that we need more staff but if the decision is whether to hire more faculty or more staff, the decision usually is more faculty. Contracts are handled by the UH system so this is really a system wide issue.

There are a number of issues that are entrenched. A big issue is the expertise that goes along with the staff positions – organize the event, design the flyer, print it up. We need designers, we need to restructure.

Dr. Moosally mentioned that we have graphic designers on campus but can't actually work on many of our events or projects because we aren't priority. If we do not have the staff to do the work, we at least need FAQs on basic procedures.

Dr. Wang wraps up the discussion to move onto new business.

New Business

Dr. Wang brings up the idea that FSEC came up with on startup funds. The FSEC draft of a resolution was put before the Senate. Dr. Henney explained that the budget and planning process is going on right now, so the timing is perfect for this type of resolution.

Dr. Dahlberg suggested that the timeline be moved up so that it can be considered.

Dr. Jerry Johnson explained that he just wrapped up the ORCA process and it was very competitive. Faculty Development was not. He thinks that faculty development should be given to the academic units. The committee is thinking about a second call for proposals.

Is Faculty Development use it or lose it?

Faculty Development seemed like it was related to teaching, maybe broaden it out a bit. Possibly use the Faculty Development funds as a bridge until we get the startup funds from the Provost's office.

The Provost's office should be the one to set up the proposal.

These Faculty Development funds and the proposal should be separated. We could also encourage multi-use items with the money like databases that can be used by multiple faculty.

Is the proposal for 1 year or 2 years?

Will the new provost have enough time to do this proposal?

Is this money going to come out of base funding or current departmental budgets? Is it available to all? We do a lot for new faculty but do very little for long-term faculty.

Dr. Henney makes a motion to vote for the Resolution (see attached). The motion passes with unanimous approval.

Dr. Benavides made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Fowler seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.