

Resolution of the UHD Faculty Senate

Approved on March 24, 2009

Passed with one abstention, none opposed

TOPIC: 2009 Governor's Initiatives entitled "Higher Education Questions"

WHEREAS:

The requests from Governor Perry's office entitled "Higher Education Questions" raise serious concerns and questions regarding their validity, efficacy, appropriateness, and legality

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The UHD Faculty Senate urges UHD leadership, UH System leadership, and the UH Board of Regents to refrain from compliance or response to the requests from the Governor's Office until such time as we are able to ascertain the following:

- clarification on the authority and validity of such requests from the Governor's Office
- public explanation of the perceived benefits of such actions for improved teaching and practices in higher education in Texas
- cost estimates for gathering and maintaining these large amounts of data and restructuring faculty evaluation systems
- verification that these requests for public posting of information have no potential to violate FERPA, intellectual property rights, privacy rights, etc.
- an understanding of the risks and potential contradictions to our accreditation standards as established by SACS
- information about how other state systems are responding to these requests
- long-term implications for the retention and (inter)national reputation of Texas faculty, students, and the value of Texas higher education degrees
- justification using published empirical evidence for the use of student course evaluations as a tool for determining faculty raises and/or bonuses

AND

Upon receipt of said information, UH administrators should share information with system faculty and work with them to ensure that any responses are consistent with best practices in higher education and are undertaken for the advancement of pedagogical and research goals appropriate for public institutions of higher education in a democratic society.