



Faculty Senate

Minutes

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

12:15 p.m.

Faculty Senate President Dan O'Connor called the May 9, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:20 p.m. He welcomed everyone noting that this would be the last Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (56)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, E. Kwon, P. Peters
BUS: S. Basu, M. Murray, L. Silva
CLASS: P. Blake, W. Breslin, P. Butler, J. Clark, J. Cortina, S. Craig, J. Fix, D. Foss, M. Gutiérrez, J. Kleinheider, D. O'Connor, Raúl Ramos, L. Reed, C. Spitzmueller
COTA: F. Fernando
EDU: S. Culpepper, K. Hassett, C. Horn, M. Lee
ENGR: M. Nikolaou, G. Song, C. Wilson
GCSW: S. Jennings
HON: S. Long
HRM: J. Draper, C. Morosan, D.C. Taylor
LAW: J. Heppard
LIB: K. Creelman, C. Gola, S. Thompson
NSM: K. Bassler, E. Bittner, S. Huang, R. Lee, M. Papadakis, D. Pattison, A. Quaini, Z. Ren
OPT: V. Das, K. Fern, R. Manny
PHA: G. Cuny, R. Ghose, T. Hussain, S. Salim
RES FAC: M. Laughlin
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, F. Merchant

MEMBERS ABSENT: (76)

ARCH: S. Rifaat, W. Truitt
BUS: D. Currie, J. Hess, N. Johnson, T. Kong, C. Larson, A. Miljanić, V. Patrick-Ralhan, G. Smith, S. Werner
CLASS: E. Alemán, J. Babcock, E. Cizek, M. Dunkelberger, S. Fishman, H. Glass, S. Grigorian, A. Hernandez, D. Hernandez, M. Ivey, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Sharp
CON: S. Lee
COTA: C. Boone, R. Bush, J. Mueller, A. Noble, K. Rigdon, S. Wallace
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, J. Freiberg, J. Gonzalez, L. Hutchison, L. McKinney
ENGR: S. Brankovic, P. Cirino, J. Conrad, K. Grigoriadis, Y. Kulkarni, K. Larin, D. Shattuck, S. Shevkoplyas, J. Wolfe
GCSW: R. Gearing, P. Leung, M. Sampson
HON: C. LeVeaux-Haley
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Madera
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, L. Hoffman, P. Linzer
LIB: A. Malone

NSM: R. Capuano, S. Dryer, R. Forrest, R. George, S. Gilbertson, T. Lapen, V. Lubchenko, J. May, C. Ratti, S. Shah, S. Xu
OPT: D. Currie, J. Porter, D. Powell
PHA: B. McConnell, V. Tam
TECH: S. Ezell, M. Moges, G. Zouridakis

VACANT SEATS: (5) CLASS-PSYC – 1 seat / LAW – 2 seats / OPT – 1 seat/ NSM-BIO – 1 seat

VISITORS: Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs/Provost); Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs); Amr Elnashai (Vice President/Vice Chancellor, Research and Technology Transfer); Raymond Bartlett (Senior Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Finance); Veronica Douglas (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries); Cameron Barrett (Student Body President, Student Government Association); Kendrick Alridge (Chief of Staff, Student Government Association); Allison Lawrence (Deputy Chief of Staff, Student Government Association); Garrett Gowe (Associate Director of Outreach, Student Government Association); Tomas Bryan (Student Government Association)

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 18, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Report from and Discussion with the Faculty Senate President: [Dan O'Connor](#)

Pres. O'Connor gave a brief report to include the topics listed below.

- The Faculty Governance Committee's (FGC) Faculty Handbook subcommittee had made significant revisions and was currently in a reconciliation phase. After a campus administrative review over the summer, the FGC would review and report to the Executive Committee and the Senate. The handbook was scheduled for an entire campus review in fall 2018.
- The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) had been working on several policies, one of which was the draft of a Faculty Code of Conduct. Dr. O'Connor noted that the FAC had drawn upon research from other universities whose policies ranged from detailed to a broad statement of principles and values and had indicated they would be approaching this policy from a broad perspective. Updates on this and other policies would be forthcoming.
- The Research & Scholarship Committee (RSC) had a very productive retreat on May 7th. Updates would be given later in the meeting.
- The Community & Government Relations Committee's (CGRC) Assistant Professor Excellence Speaker Series (APeX) received and would be reviewing twenty-four applications and selecting four of whom would be notified in the upcoming week.
- The University Faculties Executive Committee (UFEC) had discussions about establishing a system-wide chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). This would not be handled by the Faculty Senate; however, the Senate would be kept informed.
- The next Board of Regents meeting on May 24th would include a presentation of the UH system budget. Pres. O'Connor encouraged faculty to view the published schedule online and to either attend or view via livestream.

Introduction of the 2018-2019 Student Government Association President: [Cameron Barrett](#)

Dr. O'Connor welcomed members of the Student Government Association (SGA) and introduced their newly-elected President, Cameron Barrett. Mr. Barrett stated that some priorities his administration would be addressing included campus homelessness, textbook affordability and involvement with the LGBT advisory board. Mr. Barrett introduced some of his cabinet members and closed by stating he looked forward to a productive year working together with the Faculty Senate.

Report on the 2018 Election Results for UH Grievance Committee and Faculty Senate Seats: [Cathy Horn](#), Faculty Governance Chair

Dr. Horn thanked all who participated with the elections that ended on April 30th noting that the results were certified at the May 8th FGC meeting. Out of the 1,338 eligible faculty, 315 (24%) participated. Dr. Horn congratulated the winners as listed below.

2018 UH Grievance Committee Election Results
(Committee terms are for three years except where noted.)

Tenure Track

- Consuelo Arbona, EDU
- Laveria Hutchison, EDU
- Gabriela Baeza Ventura, CLASS
- Larry Pinsky, NSM
- Carole Goodson, TECH

Non-Tenure Track

- Olga Bannova, ENGR
- Stella Grigorian, CLASS
- Chad Wayne, NSM (1-year seat)
- Danica Marelli, OPT (2-year seat)
- Catherine Hatfield, PHA (2-year seat)

2018 Election Results for directly-elected Committees
(Senate seat terms are for three years except where noted.)

Graduate & Professional Studies Committee (GPSC):

- Dietmar Froehlich, ARCH
- Juan Madera, HRM
- Jason Porter, OPT
- Sheara Jennings, GCSW
- Jerry Evans, TECH
- George Zouridakis, TECH

- Sanghyuk Chung, Research Centers & Institutes
- Mitzi Laughlin, Research Faculty

Run-Off Elections: RSC Librarian candidates:

- Wenli Gao
 - Claude Willan
- (Eligible voters would be notified when the voting polls opened).

Research & Scholarship Committee (RSC):

- Michael Kubo, ARCH
- Jennifer Wingard, CLASS
- Lars Grabow, ENGR
- Sarah Narendorf, GCSW
- Stuart Long, HON
- Bernhard Bodmann, NSM
- Gemunu Gunaratne, NSM (1-year term ending 8/15/19)
- Vallabh Das, OPT
- Holly Hutchins, TECH

Undergraduate Committee (UC):

- Martha Dunkelberger, CLASS
- Sandy Lee, CON
- Jeremy May, NSM
- Nouhad Rizk, NSM

Special Elections for At-Large Senate seats

- Funda Sahin, BUS
- Anka Vujanovic, CLASS
- Chad Wayne, NSM (2-year term ending 12/31/20)

Dr. Horn congratulated the winners and thanked the voting participants.

University of Houston System Chancellor and University of Houston President: [Renu Khator](#)
Unable to attend

University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Paula Myrick Short](#)

Provost Short gave updates on the following topics as listed below.

- The search for the College of Optometry Dean was ongoing and the search co-chairs were Lamar Pritchard (Dean, Pharmacy) and Marcus Piccolo (Associate Dean for Professional Advancement, Optometry).
- The Competitive Salary Initiative work was completed to the point where all faculty would have had their opportunity to appeal by May 18th. Thereafter, notification letters would be sent by June 8-10 to faculty receiving adjustments. She thanked the committee for their work on this third (and final) year for the initiative.

A senator inquired if there was an ongoing process of identifying other important core projects in addition to the Medical School. Provost Short responded that, based upon VP Elnashai's arrival at UH and in the interest of President Khator and the university, there would be a renewed focus on the UH Research Enterprise. She added that, with UH's Tier One status, attention needed to be paid to research dollars used to maintain/increase the UH rankings. She also noted that, within the work of the Center for ADVANCING UH Faculty Success, there was still a great deal of interest in and continued focus on the diversification of UH faculty.

University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance: [Jim McShan](#)
Unable to Attend

Dr. O'Connor noted that the UH system budget was an upcoming topic for the Board of Regents meeting on May 24 in addition to a 2% merit increase, competitive salary adjustments and \$600K for the Quality Enhancement Plan as part of the overall Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process with updates to follow.

University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Research & Technology Transfer: [Amr Elnashai](#)

VP Elnashai announced good news regarding the recently launched search for the AVP/AVC for Research and Technology Transfer. Dr. Claudia Neuhauser had accepted the position (the same position she currently held at the University of Minnesota) and would begin in August 2018.

Dr. Elnashai stated that the Division of Research (DoR) had completed a five-year plan for the Energy Research Park (ERP) to become a group-based research park that had been reviewed by Chancellor Khator. He added that he was in the process of consulting, both internally as well as externally, with virtual partners of the innovation ecosystem to determine where UH would stand in relation to initiatives by Rice University, Greater Houston Partnership, Station Houston, Houston Exponential, TMC Helix and others.

VP Elnashai also mentioned that DoR had developed a five-year plan to begin classified defense-related research activities. This plan, as reviewed with Chancellor Khator, would be implemented in three stages, the first of which would be leasing a secured facility for 60 months. He added that both this plan and the ERP plan were in the final phases prior to implementation.

Addressing UH's focus for the research enterprise after Tier One status, Dr. Elnashai stated that UH had higher aspirations and, after proposing various scenarios with Provost Short and President Khator, UH would be relaunching its research enterprise with a new goal which was currently being determined. He stated that the DoR had a very robust ten-point strategic plan that had been put into an implementation framework with a timeline for space, people and funding. Additionally, with the four thrusts and their implications, DoR had the component of managing the research enterprise in a significant way.

VP Elnashai stated that the recently launched Data Science Institute and Hurricane Resilience Institute (HuRRI) were both achieving prominence and positioning UH in a stronger manner at the city and state level. He noted that the DoR and Provost's Office funded the Data Science Institute making it both an academic and research institute with a 10-year funding plan. Also, the HuRRI had positioned UH to, rather than competing for space within the industry, create its own space and be recognized. UH would be having a second meeting with the five partners to work on the proposals. Dr. Elnashai added that he had a meeting scheduled with Provost Short the following week to discuss the feasibility and design of the Drug Discovery and Development Research Institute. With all the activities and the launching of the new institutes, VP Elnashai stated that UH had every reason to relaunch its research enterprise.

VP Elnashai closed by mentioning that the RSC Retreat, chaired by Vallabh Das, was very productive. He added that he had worked at many institutions where shared governance was a contentious issue; however, at UH that was not the case

as he had seen administration and faculty working hand in hand. He complimented the RSC noting that it worked extremely well in a very collaborative environment which affected both short-term goals and long-term vision. He thanked Provost Short for her cooperation, advice and support in the partnership between her office and the DoR.

A senator inquired about the big plan after Tier One and asked if it had been discussed with the RSC as it would take a different level of participation. Dr. Elnashai responded that he anticipated the RSC's continued collaboration and cooperation.

Dr. O'Connor concurred with Dr. Elnashai's statement regarding shared governance.

End-of-Year Reports from Faculty Senate Committees

➤ **Graduate & Professional Studies Committee: Mimi Lee, Chair**

Dr. Lee began her report by listing the subcommittee leadership as listed below.

- Sheara Jennings (*who would be the next GPSC Chair*)
- Jason Porter, Academic Program Evaluation
- Anne Delcour, Graduate Policies
- Laura Frishman, Graduate Admissions
- Graduate Student Affairs: Catherine Patterson

The Graduate Policies subcommittee reviewed five and approved four proposals that included:

- Course Credit Waivers;
- Resolving Non-Reported Grades;
- Transfer Credit for Degree-Seeking Students pursuing Graduate Certificates; and,
- Transfer Credit Policy Clarification on Pass/Fail Courses.

The Graduate Admissions subcommittee reviewed nine and approved eight proposals as listed below.

- New Admission Procedures
- Admission Policy Revisions including:
 - Removal of GRE Requirements
 - Addition of GRE Requirements

The Graduate Student Affairs

- Reviewed and approved one proposal about an Intra-System Graduate Course Registration Program
- Reviewed Cullen Travel Grant Applications
- Discussed Graduate Assistant Financial Concerns

The Academic Program Evaluation subcommittee received forty-six and reviewed/approved forty-five proposals as listed below.

- 4 new graduate certificates
 - Business Analytics
 - Hospitality Decision Making & Analytics
 - Poetry & Poetics
 - Biomedical Science
- 7 new tracks/concentrations in MS or PhD programs
- 3 new dual degree programs
- 4 new accelerated pathway program (bachelor to master)
- 6 new graduate degree programs:
 - MS in Business Analytics
 - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
 - MD in Medicine
 - PhD in Communication Disorders
 - MS in Management & Leadership
 - MS in Manufacturing Engineering

Dr. Lee expressed special appreciation to the Academic Program Evaluation subcommittee noting that some of the new degree programs were extensive (15-100 pages) and stated that all the members had worked very hard. She also thanked the Graduate School staff including: Shari Corprew (Director, Graduate School); Chris Foster (Director, Graduate Programs & Student Records); and, Robert Torres-Torres (Graduate Documentation Coordinator) for their excellent support.

➤ **Research & Scholarship Committee: Vallabh Das, Chair**

Dr. Das began by stating that the RSC had a very busy year last year. He explained that the RSC's goals and responsibilities included:

- Faculty voice on all matters pertaining to research;
- Worked closely with DoR to develop initiatives and policies that will enhance research capabilities of faculty; and,
- Management of internal awards programs.

The RSC activities over the past year included:

- Welcomed new VP for Research – Dr. Amr Elnashai in August 2017;
- New initiatives from DoR; and,
 - Research thrusts.
- New internal grants programs focused on thrust areas included:
 - Seed Grant Program;
 - Small Equipment program (2 calls); and,
 - Large Equipment program.
- New internal grants program aimed at fostering collaboration between UH and UHD

The RSC's managing of internal grants included the following.

- Excellence awards
 - Efforts to publicize this program were successful in that we got a great pool of nominees reflecting the diverse faculty at UH
 - Among the six winners, two were from non-STEM fields and three were women.
 - Listed below are grants with the subcommittee chairs.
 - Small Grants (Budget: \$90,000) – Cristian Morosan
 - New Faculty Grants (\$150,000) – Cristian Morosan
 - GEAR (\$250,000) – Eric Bittner
 - Seed Grants (\$420,000) – Carla Sharp
 - Small Equipment (\$500,000) – Vallabh Das
 - Large Equipment (\$1,000,000) – Vallabh Das
 - Bridge Funding (\$300,000) – George Zouridakis
 - Excellence Awards (\$50,000) – Stuart Dryer
 - UH-UHD Synergy Grants (\$300,000) – Karolos Grigoriadis

Other RSC activities included:

- Centers and Institutes – Randy Lee
- Open Access initiative – Santi Thompson
- Animal subcommittee – Stuart Dryer
- Completed RSC year-end retreat on Monday May 7, 2018

Dr. Das explained there was a good exchange of ideas that included the DoR's budget for the upcoming year for the thrust and non-thrust areas and expressed his appreciation for VP Elnashai's willingness to work with the RSC.

Dr. Das closed by stating that Gangbing Song would be the new RSC Chair and Randy Lee would be the new RSC Vice Chair.

A senator suggested that the RSC include a member from Intellectual Property. Dr. Das responded that he would pass the suggestion to the new leadership noting that the DoR had changed and made better progress since Dr. Elnashai's arrival.

➤ **Undergraduate Committee: Shishir Shah, Chair**

Dr. Shah was unable to attend and Vice Chair Christopher Taylor gave the report as follows:

Dr. Taylor noted that the new chair would be elected at the following week's meeting. He thanked the membership that included:

- Faculty representatives from all Colleges and Libraries
- Undergraduate Students from Student Government Association
- Representatives from Advising Coordinators Team
- Ex-officio Representatives from
 - Provost's Office
 - AVP Student Success
 - AVP Undergraduate Studies
 - Dean of Students
 - Executive Director of Admissions
 - Office of Registrar and Academic Records
 - Financial Aid

Proposals reviewed as listed below.

- 348 Total
 - Degree Program – 39
 - Course Creation/Revision – 280
 - Policy - 29

President O'Connor expressed his appreciation to all the outgoing committee chairs and their committees for their service. He added that the Senate's work scaled back during the summer; however he would be available if needed. He also stated that there would be no June Faculty Senate meeting.

Adjournment 1:16 p.m.