



Faculty Senate

Minutes

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

12:15 p.m.

Faculty Senate President Dan O'Connor called the September 19, 2018 Faculty Senate Meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:17 p.m. President O'Connor welcomed everyone and thanked Provost Short for providing desserts for the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (75)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kubo, P. Peters
BUS: J. Hess, M. Murray, A. Narayanan, F. Sahin, G. Smith, S. Werner
CLASS: J. Babcock, P. Blake, P. Butler, J. Cortina, S. Craig, J. Fix, D. Hernandez, H. Glass, S. Grigorian, M. Gutiérrez, J. Kleinheider, D. O'Connor, R. Ramos, L. Reed, G. San Miguel, C. Spitzmueller
EDU: S. Culpepper, L. McKinney, A. Thompson
ENGR: J. Conrad, L. Grabow, M. Nikolaou, D. Shattuck, G. Song
GCSW: S. Jennings, S. Narendorf
HON: S. Long
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Draper, J. Madera, C. Morosan, D.C. Taylor
LAW: J. Heppard
LIB: K. Creelman, W. Gao, C. Gola, A. Malone
NSM: B. Bodmann, B. George, S. Gilbertson, G. Gunaratne, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison, A. Quaini, C. Ratti, N. Rizk, C. Wayne
OPT: D. Currie, V. Das, K. Fern, R. Manny
PHA: G. Cuny, T. Hussain, B. McConnell, S. Salim
RES FAC: O. Bannova
RES CTRS: S. Chung
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

MEMBERS ABSENT: (59)

ARCH: S. Rifaat
BUS: S. Basu, N. Johnson, T. Kong, O. Miljanic, L. Silva,
CLASS: E. Aleman, C. Alfano, W. Breslin (w/n), J. Clark, M. Dunkelberger, S. Fishman, D. Foss, A. Hernandez, M. Ivey, D. Papell, C. Sharp, A. Vujanovic, J. Wingard
CON: C. Brohard (w/n), S. Lee
COTA: R. Bush, C. Boone (w/n), F. Fernando, J. Mueller, A. Noble, K. Rigdon, S. Wallace
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, J. Freiberg (w/n), J. Gonzalez, C. Horn, L. Hutchison, M. Lee
ENGR: S. Brankovic, P. Cirino, K. Grigoriadis, Y. Kulkarni, K. Larin, S. Shevkopyas, C. Wilson
GCSW: R. Gearing, P. Leung
HON: C. LeVeaux
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, L. Hoffman, P. Linzer
NSM: K. Bassler, R. Capuano, R. Forrest, T. Lapen, V. Lubchenko, Z. Ren, S. Xu

OPT: J. Porter, R. Ghose, V. Tam

VACANT SEATS: (7) ARCH – 1 seat / LAW – 2 seats / OPT – 2 seats / CLASS-COMM – 1 seat / BUS – 1 seat

VISITORS: Renu Khator (Chancellor/President), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Chancellor/President), Paula Myrick Short (Sr. Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs/Provost), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs), Jim McShan (Sr. Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Administration & Finance), Raymond Bartlett (Sr. Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Finance), Richard Walker (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Student Affairs), Amr Elnashai (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Research and Technology Transfer); Claudia Neuhauser (Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Research and Technology Transfer), Jonathan Snow (Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), Arianna Santiago (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries), Mea Warren (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries), Erica Lopez (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries)

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 9, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

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

President O'Connor offered the following updates:

- Faculty Senate fiscal year budget for 2018-2019: President O'Connor presented the Faculty Senate's five-year actual expenditures and commitments (2014-2018) noting that the Faculty Senate was funded by the Provost's Office with assistance from the President's office.
- Faculty Handbook: The draft was being circulated among the committee and would be sent to the administrative offices for review the following week. The committee, chaired by Cathy Horn, would reconcile the comments and send the handbook to the University Coordinating Board in October and then to all the faculty and administrative units for review. In December, the handbook would be submitted to the President and Provost for final approval.
- Faculty Senate Social: Dr. O'Connor announced that the "Welcome Back" Faculty Senate social would be on Thursday, September 20th from 5:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Rooftop Bar & Grill. He invited all faculty to attend.
- Faculty Tailgate: The Faculty Senate would be hosting a tailgate party at the UH versus TSU football game on Saturday, September 22nd at 4 p.m. This event was coordinated through the Provost office and sponsored by the Engineering Department. Dr. O'Connor invited all who were interested to attend. The Faculty/Staff tailgate on Thursday, October 4th would be sponsored by the Staff Council and Dr. O'Connor encouraged everyone to stop by on their way home from work.
- Faculty Safety & Emergency Preparedness Symposium: The first symposium took place on September 11th and was well attended. The second symposium is scheduled on October 24th.
- APeX Speaker Series: The first speaker in the 2018-19 APeX series would be Dr. Aaron T. Becker with a talk entitled "An inside job: using tiny robot swarms to heal the body" the following Wednesday, September 26, 2018 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in MD Anderson Library, Room 306. The remaining talks included: Dr. Julie Derges Kastner presenting "The power of music play" on October 24, 2018; Dr. Elizabeth Farfán-Santos presenting "Mothering as Health Security: Undocumented mothers, children, and medical alienation in the United States"; and, Dr. Kathryn Freeman Anderson presenting "Racial residential segregation, the distribution of health-promoting community organizations, and health outcomes".

A senator asked about the graduate stipends committee and President O'Connor stated that the GPSC was working on that topic.

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

President Khator welcomed everyone to the new academic year. She reported on the following:

- UH continued to grow and set an enrollment record of 46,355 total students with 5,000+ transfer students and 5000+ freshman with retention and graduating rates increasing. She added that 45% of all UH students were taking at least one online course. The residence halls were at full capacity.
- Dr. Khator referenced the US News & World report in which UH's ranking went up 21 points from 150 to 171 due, in part, from a change in methodology. However, other factors included increased retention and graduation rates, as well as UH's marketing and promotion through its faculty and athletics programs, also contributed to the increased ranking.
- The College of Medicine (COM) MD degree application had been submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and their recent visit to UH went very well. The COM leadership had been assembled and the property location is currently being investigated.
- The Texas legislative session would begin after the November elections at which time President Khator would be traveling to Austin to present justification of funding received. She added that February 12, 2019 would be the UH Day at the Capital and invited all who were interested to attend. President Khator added that the Provost and Administration & Finance offices were working on an initiative of transparency to the UH budgeting process with reports to follow.
- The system-wide "Here, We go." \$1 billion campaign had raised \$904 million and recently received a \$4 million dollar anonymous gift to the Creative Writing Program.
- President Khator noted that her tenth annual President's Fall Address would take place on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the Moores Opera House.

A senator suggested that, when evaluating the budget, the administration look at priorities and their costs for academic and DoR and evaluate trends to determine a rationale for growth. President Khator concurred noting that the administration was open to suggestions as they were creating a more transparent budgeting process.

Dr. O'Connor commented that the COM administrators were very interested in becoming more integrated within the University and that COM would be presenting at a later meeting.

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

Provost Short welcomed the members back, noting that many had worked throughout the summer. She discussed the following:

- A meeting handout "Piper Professor for 2018" which had been distributed across the country to the offices of the Provost and President. She encouraged everyone to keep her office informed of the great work their faculty were doing for more brochures to come.
- The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) had been launched with a focus on many student engagements in learning outside and inside the university.
- The 2018 Rockwell Lecture Series would be presenting "An Evening with Soledad O'Brien on October 12, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Conrad N. Hilton Ballroom of the UH Hilton. Provost Short added that the RSVP went out the day before and over 500 RSVPs out of 700 possible seats had been received. She encouraged all who were interested to RSVP as soon as possible.

- Two dean searches underway:
 - Dean, College of Optometry – There would be airport interviews in the next two weeks followed by on-campus interviews; and,
 - Dean, C.T. Bauer College of Business – Provost Short was currently sending appointment letters to the search committee as well as a search firm to begin work with the committee on the first of October.
- Dr. Short noted that email invitations for “Coffee with the Provost” would be sent for the first meeting with the focused on being the first woman in many different leadership positions.

Provost Short thanked everyone and received no questions from the floor.

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

VP McShan had no report but was available for questions. A senator asked if increased income came with the increase in enrollment. Mr. McShan said that UH would not see a change from State formula funding this year since we are in the second year of the biennium, and revenues were in line with the projected enrollment growth that was projected for last fiscal year. A senator asked about the bond balance and if a share of the funding was going to Academic Affairs. Mr. McShan responded that there was a bond balance of \$850 million for UH and \$1.3 billion for UHS. The proportionate share of funding to Academic Affairs has been the same for years, about 78% of “new” state dollars resulting from increased enrollment after first allocating funding merit increases, GTF, and other priorities. He added that whatever would be left would be based on the existing percentage. Dr. O’Connor added that the new dollars to Academic Affairs were not really much considering they are distributed among UH’s many colleges. A senator asked about specific accounting methods for quantifying funds being directed towards non-academic activities such as athletics. Dr. O’Connor noted that the same proportion of new state money (78%) would be allocated to Academic Affairs as has been noted for several years. He added that the President’s focus and action this year on improving budget transparency would have an opportunity to transform the university.

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

VP Elnashai announced that the university was now focused on a new level of excellence beyond Tier One status and improving UH’s position in the Top American Research University ranking with a bold initiative to substantially expand the research enterprise called “Research Preeminence: 50 in 5”. This ambitious program would focus on increasing everything related to research efforts and scholarly output at UH by 50 percent during the next 5-year period (including publications, citations, awards, casebooks, cited performances and research expenditures). Additionally, UH would double the number of national research centers from the current 5 to 10 centers.

Dr. Elnashai described the UH trends during the past ten years:

- total research expenditures had doubled (according to a NSF HERD Survey);
- licensing income had grown by 2898%;
- UH added four new research centers, and now had a fifth one, including Advanced Superconductor Manufacturing Institute (ASMI), Subsea Systems Institute (SSI), National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM), Borders, Trade and Immigration Institute (BTI) and the pre-existing Texas Center for Learning Disabilities (TCLD); and,
- UH was designated an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University based on the following:
 - 1 – top royalty-earning Institution in the U.S. (without a medical school)
 - 11 – National Academy of Inventors Members; and,
 - 67 – Top 100 Global Universities for U.S. Utility Patents.

Dr. Elnashai explained that UH’s current status was as follows:

- UH and Rice ranked 122 and 125, respectively, in the NSF HERD FY16 for all R&D expenditures;
- UH ranked in the 301-350 range when compared to its Texas peers in higher education with UT Austin (49), Texas A&M University (159), UT Dallas (201-250) and Texas Tech University (501-600) range;
- UH ranked in the range (301-350) with urban peers in higher education;
- FY17 Department Research Expenditures per ranked faculty included Chemical Engineering (\$366,569), Civil Engineering (\$257,742), Social Work (\$228,639), Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences (\$220,123), Psychology (\$185,012), Physics (\$176,931), Optometry (\$203,322), Biomedical Engineering (\$228,322), Computer Science (\$237,301) and Pharmacy Practice & Translational Research (\$347,642); and,
- UH developed four Institutional Thrusts including Cyber and Physical Security, Drug Discovery and Development, Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure and Accessible Healthcare to focus its efforts.

VP Elnashai stated that UH opportunities, based on UH current rankings, included the following:

- 61 in the FY16 Federal Expenditures (AAU) per T/TT faculty;
- 54 in the FY16 National Academy Members (AAU) per T/TT Faculty; and,
- 59 in FY16 Citations per T/TT faculty.
- UH proposal success rates during the past eight years ranged from 37% to 26% - noting that proposals submitted in FY17 may have been awarded in FY18. Dr. Elnashai added that the numbers seen early on had shown that UH was increasing; however, there was a need for more proposals to be submitted.
- The total number of ranked faculty with projects in academic colleges in FY17 was 1213 with the percentage of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors, respectively, being:
 - with no projects was 56%, 58% and 56%;
 - with one project were 14%, 17% and 16%;
 - with two projects were 7%, 10% and 12%; and,
 - with three projects was 23%, 16% and 16%.

He added that current trends included the following:

- Sources of National Research funds over the past 50 years had trended +33% from non-defense to defense and +57% from fundamental to applied science. He added that 58.8% of the sources for the National Research funds came from industry, 35.5% from Federal and 5.7% from other sources. Dr. Elnashai added that UH was strong in applied science.
- More than 100 opportunities for major grants have been identified including sources including as the NSF, NIH and NASA.

VP Elnashai explained that UH would accomplish its goal of increasing scholarly output with the “50 in 5” initiative through the implementation of the four university thrusts and institutes (including the recently created Data Science Institute (DSI) and Hurricane Resilience Research Institute (HuRRI). The increased scholarship and creative output would be derived from expenditures, publications, casebooks, cited performances, citations and awards. The 50% growth target in research expenditures from FY17 to FY23 would be \$162,049,000 to \$243,073,000 with Federal expenditures only (Public Institution) from FY17 to FY23 growing from \$62,703,000 to \$94,054,500. Dr. Elnashai added that ways to increase scholarly output included: rewarding productivity, empowering productive faculty, reigniting all faculty, increasing and enhancing proposals, intensifying hiring, investing in critical areas, expanding corporate research, initiating defense research, investing in infrastructure and increasing visibility.

Dr. Elnashai described the engagement model to raise the UH profile which included the following:

- UH – exceptional faculty, focused priorities, agile leadership;
- McAllister and Quinn (M&Q) – proposal preparation, advocacy, mapping of research; and,
- Husch Blackwell Strategies (HBS) – opportunity identification, advocacy and connectivity trips.

He added that for Corporate Research: Technology Bridge, the approach would be to attract 5 large R&D partners and 25 startups, commercialize UH research and increase UH research at the park with a \$2M investment for additional FTE, a Faculty Fellow and marketing. For Classified Research (UH Classified Unit

Launch), the investment would be \$2.5M for 3,000-5,000 square feet of office space to include 1 organizational leader, 3-5 faculty/research staff, 3-5 faculties/security staff and 2-5 students.

Basic – Domain: Fundamental concepts or mechanisms

Performers: Academic, federal labs

TRL: 1-3

Applied – Domain: Facilitating technologies

Performers: Contractors, applied research labs

TRL: 3-5

Development – Domain: Process scale-up and roll-out

Performers: Contractors, manufacturers

TRL: 5-8

Dr. Elnashai closed with noting the following:

Institutional support for research Preeminence

- \$1M Planning Grants for National Research Centers
- \$300,000 DoR Investment in Proposal Coordination + Match
- \$3.01M/Year Seed Grant Programs
- \$300,000/Year DC Lobbying (Company and DC Office)
- \$2M Provost + DoR Support for New and Future Institutes
- \$16M/Year Startup Funds
- \$2M/Year GURI Match
- \$2M Corporate Research Infrastructure
- \$2.5M Defense Research Infrastructure

A senator inquired how DoR would assess/measure the success of the initiative and what could realistically be accomplished. Dr. Elnashai explained that each college area would be evaluated for the purpose of encouraging the percentage of faculty with no research proposals to develop and pursue proposal generation to reach the 50% goal.

Another senator asked if there was a mechanism for shifting research activities from non-research to research focus for the “50 in 5” initiative. Dr. Elnashai responded that there would be a need to quantify the disciplinary citations. He added that the focus was not specifically about funding and added that UH would be seeking support for targeting citations of impactful research.

A senator inquired as to what would be occurring on the college level. Dr. Elnashai noted that the Provost had been working on a document that would verify what would count as measurable scholarly output as determined by the college. Each college would have a starting and end target with engagement from the Deans. The document would be shared with the Deans who would then pass on to the departments. The timeline was currently fluid. Dr. Elnashai closed by stating his presentation slides would be posted for further review.

Presentation by University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services: [Richard Walker](#)

VP Walker announced that the fall 2018 enrollment (46,355) had increased 2.2% over fall 2017 (45,362) with first time incoming freshman class increasing 4.8% from 4,962 to 5,204 and transfer students increasing 1.2% from 5,263 to 5,330. The 2018 student population breakdown was as follows: Hispanic (31.8%); White (24.6%); Asian American (20.7%); African American (9.7%); International (8%); and, Multiracial (3%). The 2017-2018 residence hall occupancy was 98% with more student housing planned by 2020.

Dr. Walker stated that the Cougar Emergency Fund was \$1,195,605. The 582 Fall 2017 Hurricane Harvey grant recipients were as follows: 479 undergraduates, 80 graduates and 23 professionals. He added that, of the 582 recipients, 44 graduated and 538 returned for a 95% retention rate. He noted that the fund was not

only for Hurricane Harvey. He added that the 2013-2017 Strategic plan had been completed and they would be launching the 2018-2022 Strategic plan soon.

A senator inquired about plans for on-campus student housing. Dr. Walker stated that they were in the process of updating Moody Towers after which they would renovate Bayou Oaks. Additionally, there were plans for more student housing as UH was taking into consideration that a lot of students wished to live on campus. A senator asked about student housing for the Sugarland campus. Dr. Walker said that there were no plans for student housing at the Sugarland campus at this time. A senator inquired regarding classroom upkeep and what would be the maximum number of students. Dr. Walker explained that UH had conducted a space study and had allocated \$100M to update the classrooms to ensure the capacity in the classrooms to meet the enrollment demands. A senator asked about with increased students, would there be increased student engagement. Dr. Walker stated that there are about 500 student organizations and UH was tracking their participation. He added that for the past two years in a student satisfaction survey, UH student involvement ranked in the top 2 most satisfied.

Faculty Senate President O'Connor reminded the senators to leave their name plates on their table for attendance and to try and attend the social at the Rooftop, the tailgate on Saturday and the APeX speaker the following Wednesday.

Adjournment: 1:52 p.m.