



**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
12:15 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Raúl Ramos called the September 18, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:17 p.m. He welcomed both the current and new Senators and guests, briefly described the purpose for the Faculty Senate meetings, and reminded the Senators to leave their nameplates on the tables for attendance purposes.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (59)

ARCH: D, Froehlich, M. Kubo
BUS: D. Currie, L. Silva, S. Werner
CLASS: P. Butler, J. Cortina, M. Dunkelberger, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, L. Maher, R. Ramos, S. Scarrow, C. Sisk, B. Tamber-Rosenau
CON: C. Brohard, P. Schrader
COTA: N. Harren
EDU: S. Gronseth, L. Hutchinson
ENGR: H. Love, D. Shattuck, Y. Yao
GCSW: P. Leung, S. Narendorf
HON: D. Gish, S. Long
HRM: J. Draper, J. Madera
Law: J. Heppard
LIB: K. Creelman, N. Dethloff, A. Malone, S. Thompson
NSM: J. Briggs, B. George, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, C. Ratti, J. Sisson, G. Toti, C. Wayne
OPT: D. Currie, K. Fern, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter, K. Fern
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, M. Trivedi
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

MEMBERS ABSENT: (72)

ARCH: P. Peters
BUS: S. Basu, D. Currie, J. Hess, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, O. Miljanic, M. Murray, A. Narayanan, G. Smith
CLASS: E. Aleman, P. Blake, R. Boul, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, S. Craig, J. Fix, D. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Sharp, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic, J. Wingard
COTA: T. Chapman, F. Fernando, J. Mueller, K. Rigdon
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, J. Freiberg, K. Hassett, M. Lee, Y. Mo, A. Thompson
ENGR: J. Chen, S. Chung, P. Cirino, J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, M. Nikolaou, M. Robertson, G. Song
GCSW: S. Jennings
HRM: J. Bowen, C. Morosan, D. Taylor
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, A. Michaels
LIB: C. Gola
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, R. Capuano, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, V. Lubchenko, E. Papadakis, M. Papadakis, A. Quaini, Z. Ren, N. Rizk, S. Xu
OPT: V. Das, J. Porter
PHA: R. Ghose, T. Hussain, B. McConnell, D. Thornton

VACANT SEATS: (14) ARCH – 2 seats/ COTA – 3 seats / BUS – 2 seats / LAW – 1 seat / CLASS – 2 seats / NSM – 2 seats/ GCSW – 1 seat / TECH – 1 seat

VISITORS: Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost); Richard Walker (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Student Affairs and Enrollment Services); Jim McShan (Senior Vice Chancellor/Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance), Eloise Dunn Brice (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, University Advancement); Emily Messa (Associate Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice President, Administration & Finance); Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs); David Oliver (Associate Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice President, Facilities/Construction Management); Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President); Sarah Larsen (Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School); Dan O'Connor (Professor & Department Chair, Health and Human Performance), John Hubbard (Clinical Professor, Biomedical Sciences), Ariana Santiago (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries)

Minutes: The minutes of the May 8, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Report from and Discussion with the Faculty Senate President: [Raúl Ramos](#)

President Ramos announced upcoming Faculty Senate-sponsored events that included the following:

- APeX Speaker Series featuring Dr. Tiffany S. Legendre presenting a lecture entitled “From ‘Ew’ to ‘Wow’, the gateway bug to edible insect consumption” on Wednesday, September 25th at 12:15 p.m. in the M.D. Anderson Library Room 306. He encouraged everyone to attend noting that a light lunch would be served.
- The Faculty Senate's biennial conference entitled “Building Healthy Communities Through Partnerships: Future Directions in Health Sciences at UH” would take place on Friday, October 4th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Center South Houston Room. He noted the keynote speaker, Dr. Charlene Flash, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Legacy Community Health and explained that the conference focus would be an interactive day of sessions to explore the role of the University within today's healthcare systems, to highlight current health science projects from many different discipline areas, and to offer opportunities for networking with key community stakeholders and UH College of Medicine leadership. He added that breakfast and lunch would be provided with advanced registration and encouraged everyone to attend.

Dr. Ramos acknowledged the retirement of Faculty Senate Staff Associate Jill Bays-Purtill and presented a gift of appreciation.

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Chancellor and University of Houston President: [Renu Khator](#) (Unable to attend)

Presentation on the Aspire Fund: University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for University Advancement: [Eloise Dunn Brice](#) and **University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost:** [Paula Myrick Short](#)

Vice President Eloise Dunn Brice described the urgent need for fundraising for buildings, endowments, scholarships and professorships. She explained the anonymous donor's \$50M pledge and challenge for the Aspire Fund. The Aspire Fund would be focused on four convergence institutes, targeted to be fully functional by spring 2023, including: Sustainable Energy and Energy Security (June 2022), Healthcare Innovation (September 2021), Resilient Infrastructure and Smart Cities (2023) and Global Engagement (September 2020). VP Brice stated that the incoming director would review and revise the preliminary plans in association with the Provost's Office, the Division of Research and the RSC. Final plans would be reviewed by the Provost, VP for Research and the Research & Scholarship Committee with the Provost and VP for Research providing a one-year approval noting that each institute would seek full university

research/education institute status. Eloise then presented a video on the Aspire Fund adding that there was more to come.

Provost Short stated that this was an incredible gift and opportunity for UH and they were preparing a detailed plan for the use of the gift through the establishment of more institutes as well as the recruitment of new professors and talent from across the country, noting that all faculty for the Aspire Fund would be new hires to the university.

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

Vice President Richard Walker began by stating that he would be celebrating his 8th year anniversary at UH the following day. He explained that, for the Strategic Plan 2019-2023, Student Affairs and Enrollment Services had launched a new strategic plan entitled “Spark the Power” for the division in October 2018 and that this was the second five-year plan developed and initiated for the division. The four thematic areas included: Student Success (champion exceptional opportunities and services to support all UH students); Division Cohesion (create and foster a cohesive division identity, culture and community); Resources (evaluate, actively pursue, and leverage resources to enhance the UH experience); and Partnerships (forge and strengthen partnerships to better reach the university and greater community).

Dr. Walker noted that the 2019 enrollment was slightly down (a difference of 172 students), freshman enrollment was up by 9.2% and transfer student enrollment was down (a difference of 586 students). However, UH had the highest SATs to date for freshman students. He added that there was a change to transfer admission GPA requirements with an automatic admission of 2.5 GPA or greater (up from 2.0 GPA) and there would be no admission below 2.25 GPA. Dr. Walker stated that the 2019 student population diversity was stronger and mentioned the 32.4% Hispanic, 23.7% White, 21.1% Asian American, 9.9% African American and 7.6% for International students.

Currently, Richard Walker stated that, with regards to Student Housing & Residential Life, UH had 7,200 beds at 98% occupancy. And, with the addition of The Quad's 1,189 new beds, there would be 8,389 beds by fall of 2020. He also noted that, for Student Engagement, there were 482 student organizations. Dr. Walker noted that Counseling & Psychological Services was up 11.4% serving unique clients and with every increase in enrollment, there was a 7% increase in demand for CAP services. He stated they had added thirteen counselors and that they were always looking for the best way to serve the students.

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

Provost Paula Myrick Short gave an update on graduate enrollment noting that the headcount for the total Master's enrollment had declined for the second year in a row. Provost Short noted that she had been in discussions with the Dean of Graduate Studies to prepare a plan for the future, to identify issues and recruitment opportunities and to hire recruiters. She explained that, as a Tier One University, the proportional change in the number of graduate versus undergraduate students needed to shift as the total doctoral and professional enrollments had both declined.

Dr. Short added that the SCH formula had followed the same pattern and there had been a 10% decline in the enrollment percentage of international Master's students as well. She explained that new graduate and professional student enrollment had declined in the past two years as seen both on a regional and national basis. And, the number of new doctoral students had declined by 30% after a three-year increase. She noted an increase, on the Master's level, of Hispanic and female students since 2014. Provost Short explained that they wished to preserve and slow the decline and would be seeking opportunities with entities to help with the process. She added they would be sharing information with the colleges and chairs and they wished to work very strategically to slow the decline to provide for a proportional increase. Dr. Short stated that enrollment data would be shared with the colleges in about three weeks.

A senator noted the importance of Master's degree student funding in relation to seeking top applicants and being competitive. Dr. Short concurred and noted they were working on that issue and had seen an increase in donors wishing to contribute to individual programs. She added that the Offices of Student Affairs and the Grants and Scholarship Offices were working on financial support. Another Senator discussed the

relationship between the number of international collaborations among universities and student enrollment, adding that the more collaborations the university had, the more students would be attending. Dr. Short agreed and explained that UH Global had representatives in China working on collaborations at that time and added that there was a need to look at it from a research perspective. A Senator inquired regarding Ph.D. and Ed.D students and asked if Ed.D students were counted. Provost Short stated that they were counted. A Senator spoke about the financial burden for international students including healthcare, lack of family support, etc. and inquired if that this was driven by the lack of stipends to the students. Dr. Short responded that was an important question that was being considered.

Provost Short announced, in support for the 50-in-5 Initiative, she would be using an endowment to establish another fund named the "Provost 50-in-5". She explained that it would be twenty \$5K grants to support research with the return on investment to impact one of the initiatives that could include such expenses as transcription of field notes, translations, travel to gather data, etc. Dr. Short added that the faculty needed to connect their need to the initiatives. Paula Short stated she would be sending an email to faculty the following week to help them do their important work around research.

Dr. Ramos thanked Provost Short for her support of the Faculty Senate.

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

Senior Vice President Jim McShan announced that, for this legislative session, the FY2020 new central revenue summary included Sources - \$21.7M with Formula Funding (GR) at \$5M and Tuition at \$16.7M. Highlighted allocations included a 2% Merit plus benefits (\$12M), new faculty hires (\$3M), academic performance funding (\$1M), Graduate Tuition Fellowships (\$2M), support for the new Sugarland academic building and Technology Bridge (\$1.5M), and other (\$2.2M).

Mr. McShan noted safety initiatives including ATVs, Cougar Ride, New LED lighting system installed in garages to better illuminate surroundings at night, UHPD utilization of watchtowers to help keep students, faculty and staff safe in campus parking lots, Cougar Pack and a series of signs posted around campus as a proactive approach to reminding the UH community to be safe. There had been five Staff Safety Forums and forty-five focus groups with over 220 staff participants. He announced upcoming Safety Forums for students on September 23rd, 25th and 30th and October 1st and for faculty on October 4th, 11th, 14th and 24th. For the FY20 Academic Year, there was a 93.3% First Preference/Renewal for Zone Parking (an increase of 14% in Student Satisfaction. And, the #PTS Cares "Cougar Ride After-Hours Shuttle) had 21,534 passengers from October 2018 – August 2019.

SVP McShan noted that, with procurement improvements, it would be a phased approach to improving customer service with a focus on performance, processes, and people. He stated that changes to date included:

- reduced purchase requisition average turnaround time to 3.4 days from 23.2 days a year ago;
- increased the spot bid threshold to \$15K from \$5K;
- redefined laboratory analysis and equipment repair services as "goods", which eliminates the need for a contract;
- dedicated purchasing buyers to colleges/divisions;
- established a list of contracted vendors over the past 3 years, which was available on Purchasing's website; and,
- development of a web page with additional information regarding the use of Cooperative Agreements (eliminating the need for formal solicitations up to certain dollar limits).

He added that the focus moving forward would be to:

- develop institutional contracts with the initial focus on high spend commodities;
- review other services for an opportunity to expand the list of services that can be classified as a good (eliminates contract);
- eliminate administrative burden where possible by streamlining procurement processes and modifying policies and procedures where applicable;
- improve transparency in the procurement process;

- implement procurement planning and strategic sourcing opportunities with colleges and divisions;
- increase data availability by sourcing and implementing solicitation software;
- develop standardized procedures and improve training;
- improve retention within Purchasing; and,
- develop additional performance metrics, including customer satisfaction.

Jim McShan noted the completed capital projects including the Sugarland Academic Building, Katy Academic Building, Garage 5 and the Fertitta Center. Projects in progress included the College of Medicine – Interim, College of Medicine, Law Center, Hilton Expansion and Garage 6. He added that the core projects included Roy G. Cullen, Agnes Arnold Hall, Charles F. McElhinney, Science and Research 1 and the Science building.

He added that improvements in Facilities/Construction Management included:

- Project Management Information System;
 - Centralized project management system
 - Data Collection and increased oversight
- Laboratory Task Force; and,
 - Representatives from Faculty Senate, Research, College
 - Decreasing the time to get Faculty into Labs
 - Improving knowledge on the Lab inventory and capabilities
- Flow Charting Lab Hiring and Buildout.
 - Third party consultant, interviewing key stakeholders in Lab hiring and build out process.

With regards to campus store highlights, there was a new vendor, Follett Higher Education that started operations in mid-June. Other enhancements coming soon included an Apple Store, Store Refresh, Intelligent Adoption Technology and a Digital Course Material Delivery Platform with codeless access to digital and affordability programs. Mr. McShan announced that there would be Starship Delivery Robots that would deliver food from on-campus locations using mobile app technology with a target date of fall 2019. He added that each robot would be equipped with ten cameras and have the ability to traverse busy walkways, include tamper-prevention features and have the ability to say various phrases such as “Have a nice day.”

Mr. McShan announced the inaugural installation of UH’s new temporary public art program featuring Marta Chilindrón, *Mobius Houston* (2019) on view at Wilhelmina’s Grove from October 2019 through April 2020. This would be accompanied by an art book of all art on campus.

A senator inquired regarding the status of T-1 Technology annex and Dr. Oliver explained that they were working with the Provost and Dean Ambler to address the College of Technology needs. Mark Clarke added that there was a space analysis in terms of the needs for the technology annex and, after the additional walk-through, they would be reassessing the overall needs for functionality.

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Research & Transfer Technology: [Amr Elnashai](#) (Unable to attend)

Adjournment: 1:27 p.m.