



**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Wednesday, January 23, 2019  
12:15 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Dan O'Connor called the January 23, 2019 Faculty Senate Meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:18 p.m. President O'Connor welcomed the senators and guests and thanked Jeanette Morales for supplying the refreshments for the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (69)**

ARCH: M. Kubo, P. Peters  
BUS: P. Kumar  
CLASS: E. Aleman, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, S. Craig, M. Dunkelberger, H. Glass, S. Grigorian, J. Kleinheider, M. Ivey, R. Ramos, T. Romero, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic  
CON: C. Brohard, S. Lee  
COTA: F. Fernando  
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Culpepper, S. Gronseth, C. Horn, L. Hutchison, M. Lee  
ENGR: J. Chen, M. Nikolaou, M. Robertson, D. Shattuck, G. Song  
HON: S. Long  
HRM: S. Narendorf, J. Bowen, J. Draper, J. Madera, D.C. Taylor  
LIB: K. Creelman, N. Dethloff, W. Gao, C. Gola, A. Malone  
NSM: J. Briggs, B. Bodmann, R. Forrest, B. George, G. Gunaratne, S. Huang, J. May, D. Pattison, A. Quaini, C. Ratti, Z. Ren, N. Rizk  
OPT: V. Das, K. Fern, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter  
PHA: T. Hussain, B. McConnell, D. Thornton  
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (66)**

ARCH: D. Froehlich, S. Rifaat  
BUS: S. Basu, D. Currie, J. Hess, N. Johnson, T. Kong, O. Miljanic, M. Murray, A. Narayanan, L. Silva, G. Smith, S. Werner  
CLASS: C. Alfano, J. Babcock, P. Blake, J. Clark, J. Fix, D. Foss, M. Gutiérrez, A. Hernandez, D. Hernandez, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Sharp, J. Wingard  
COTA: C. Boone, R. Bush, J. Mueller, A. Noble, K. Rigdon, S. Wallace  
EDU: W. Fan, J. Gonzalez, A. Thompson  
ENGR: S. Brankovic, P. Cirino, J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, Y. Mo  
GCSW: R. Gearing, S. Jennings, P. Leung  
HON: D. Gish  
HRM: C. Morosan  
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, J. Heppard, P. Linzer  
NSM: K. Bassler, R. Capuano, T. Lapen, R. Lee, V. Lubchenko, E. Papadakis, C. Wayne, S. Xu  
OPT: D. Currie  
PHA: G. Cuny, R. Ghose, S. Salim, V. Tam  
RES CTRS: S. Chung  
RES FAC: O. Bannova  
TECH: H. Hutchins

**VACANT SEATS:** (4) ARCH – 1 seat / LAW – 1 seat / OPT – 1 seat / CLASS – 1 seat

**VISITORS:** Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs/Provost), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Chancellor/President), Amr Elnashai (Vice President/Vice Chancellor, Research and Technology Transfer); Wynne Chin, Professor (Business Decision & Information Science); Mea Warren (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries), Stefanie Lapka (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries), Carolina Hernandez (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries), Mequanint Moges (Instructional Professor, Engineering Technology), Ariana Santiago (Assistant Librarian, University Libraries), Diana Chow (Professor, College of Pharmacy - Pharmacological & Pharmaceutic)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

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

President O'Connor gave the following updates:

- This meeting would be a transition meeting where Faculty President-Elect Raúl Ramos would be assuming the role of Faculty Senate President.
- Dr. O'Connor recognized special guest, Dr. Wynne Chin, a two-time Faculty Senate President and the incoming President for the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.
- Twelve new At-Large Senators were elected and their orientation was held last week. They would be assigned to either the Budget & Facilities Committee (BFC), Community & Government Relations Committee (CGRC) or the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC). The committee chairs were scheduled to meet on January 31<sup>st</sup> to make the appointments and notifications would follow.
- On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the APeX Speaker series would present Dr. Elizabeth Farfán-Santos from the Comparative Cultural Studies Department in a lecture entitled "*Mothering as Health Security: Undocumented mothers, children and medical alienation in the United States*". Light refreshments would be served.
- The Faculty Senate's biennial conference would be held on either October 4 or 11, 2019 (dependent upon the football schedule) with the topic of regional healthcare highlighting the College of Medicine.
- The Budget Transparency Steering Committee would be meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> and the Performance Subcommittee on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The Activities Subcommittee meeting date was to be announced. He added that the Senate was well represented on all the committees and details could be found from the Faculty Senate office for all who were interested.

**Presentation of Senate President-elect Election Results by Faculty Governance Committee Chair:** [Cathy Horn](#)

Chair Cathy Horn announced that the Faculty Governance Committee certified the President-Elect election results on December 20, 2018. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Horn extended congratulations to Senator Jeronimo Cortina as the 2019 Faculty Senate President-Elect.

**Second Reading of Proposed Faculty Senate Reapportionment by Faculty Governance Committee Chair:** [Dan O'Connor](#)

President O'Connor explained that the first reading of the reapportionment bylaws was in December 2018 Faculty Senate meeting and there would be a second reading in today's meeting followed by a vote, if there were no objections. He thanked the FGC members noting that it had been more than ten years since the Faculty Senate had undergone reapportionment. Dr. O'Connor added that, during that time, the Faculty Senate had incorporated three university councils (Research & Scholarship Committee, Undergraduate Committee and Graduate & Professional Studies Committee), the university had added three colleges (Arts, Medicine and Nursing, plus the Hobby School) and the FTE faculty size had grown by more than 10 percent. The reapportionment process was supposed to have been done every four years but had been delayed.

Dr. O'Connor explained that the text in red was added and the crossed-out text was being deleted as he began the second reading as listed below:

**Article One  
PROPOSED**

***“Section One--The Faculty Senate membership shall total 8 percent of the full-time tenured, tenure-track, and promotion eligible non-tenure track faculty consist of 134 voting members elected by the faculty in the manner provided below. In any year, if the president's, the president-elect's or the immediate past president's term as senator shall have expired, that person shall be designated senator-at-large. and the total membership shall be 135, 136 or 137 during which time the apportionment of senators shall not be affected.”***

**Article One  
PROPOSED**

***“Section Three--The unit by which representation shall be determined is the college, and not subdivisions thereof. Allocation of Senate seats by college is based generally upon proportion of total FTEs of eligible faculty across all colleges. For this purpose the following units are deemed to be colleges: Architecture, Business, Education, Engineering, Graduate College of Social Work, Honors, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Law Center, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Library, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Optometry, Pharmacy, and Technology. Membership of Undergraduate, Research and Scholarship, and Graduate and Professional Studies Standing Committees are described below in the bylaws. Members of a college who are eligible for Faculty Senate membership are eligible to vote in elections for senatorial positions. Elections must be by secret ballot.”***

President O'Connor noted that the proposed 8% was roughly the current Faculty Senate size. Senator Craig inquired as to why the bylaws did not say “not to exceed 8%”. Dr. O'Connor explained that there were times when positions overlapped, and the number of senators would vary slightly. He added that the bylaws would set the standards, the FGC would determine how the process would be implemented, and more specific language would follow.

There was a motion from the floor to approve that was seconded with a unanimous vote from the Faculty Senate membership to approve the proposed bylaws. President O'Connor stated that there would be a transition period for the process of implementation to take place. The next Faculty Senate elections would be later in the spring and a timeline for implementation was to be determined.

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

**Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Paula Myrick Short](#)**

Provost Short presented Faculty Senate President O'Connor with a gift of appreciation noting that she was representing President Khator, who was in Austin at the Legislative session, and bringing her words of appreciation to Dr. O'Connor for all that he had done to serve the University during his time as President. Provost Short expressed that President Khator would like to recognize Dr. O'Connor for the following noting that he was:

- very involved in the development of the College of Medicine, both in terms of the Senate as well as the Steering Committees.
- very involved in the establishment of the degree program and the LCME licensing accreditation requirements.
- instrumental in the Medical Degree proposal to the GPSC and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (*while doing about eight other jobs - Provost Short noted she had never seen someone holds so many positions and do them so well*).
- very helpful with maintaining open communication between the Administration and Faculty through his Senate role by making sure everyone was well informed, engaged, comfortable and supportive of the process noting that he had been instrumental in the university being where it was today with the Medical School.
- tireless and strategic in his efforts that were very much appreciated by President Khator and Provost Short.
- responsive to faculty concerns through many events on campus.
- a strong activist for faculty input and participation in all levels of faculty involvement.
- an extraordinary representative of the faculty and the Faculty Senate with a high level of professionalism to be applauded and congratulated in Senate leadership.
- appreciated by Dr. Elnashai, President Khator and Provost Short for his efforts and work on the “50-in-5 Initiative” involving the Senate as well as his efforts with the town hall meetings which had been extremely important in how well the university had launched the Initiative and where they currently were.

- appreciated by President Khator for stepping in and taking an active role with the Budget Transparency process where he had represented the Senate very well with good questions that kept the Administration on their toes.

Provost Short added, that on behalf of President Khator and herself, she presented Dr. O'Connor with a gift of appreciation for his service. President O'Connor thanked Provost Short and credited Drs. Horn, Snow and others as much had started under their administration.

**Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance: [Jim McShan](#) (Unable to attend)**

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

VP Elnashai discussed the topics covered at the President's Council meeting the previous week as listed below.

- With regards to the Provost Short and the DoR efforts in terms of the 50-in-5 Initiative, there were two very significant events currently being addressed including:
  - a thematic workshop open to all faculty members in April addressing how to maximize the impacts of faculty research; and,
  - an invitation to McAllister & Quinn (M&Q) to attend the next Faculty Forum for the purpose of M&Q addressing how they could support the faculty when submitting proposals. Through the overwhelming support of the faculty, Dr. Elnashai noted that they were starting to see research going back to the high level of focus when UH was working toward the Tier One Research University status.
- The DoR had relaunched the Energy Research Park (ERP) as the Technology Bridge. There was a marketing effort taking place and the signage would be changing in a significant way in the coming weeks. He added that the activity at the Technology Bridge had picked up with a large number of companies arriving on campus causing it to expand rapidly.
- Two new institutes launched last year included the Data Science Institute (DSI) in October 2018 and the Hurricane Resilience Research Institute (HuRRI) in December 2018.
  - The DSI attracted a gift from Hewlett Packard (HP) and was renamed the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute (HPE DSI). The DoR was meeting with HP to ensure that what UH was delivering was what HP wanted. He added that UH now had a very robust and comprehensive research agenda and a very strong educational agenda and the DoR wanted to ensure that both the research and education agendas went hand-in-hand as planned. VP Elnashai also noted that Provost Short had contributed substantially to the DSI. He added that, traditionally, most research institutes were supported by the DoR; however, the HPE DSI was the first significant organization where the funding was shared 50/50 between the Provost and DoR.
  - The HuRRI was also doing very well. They ran their first SEED grant and had fifteen projects underway. VP Elnashai added that a condition for submitting a proposal was having it come from more than one institution of the six that formed the center. He explained that one project submitted had three of the six university partners. HuRRI held their third meeting two weeks ago at the partner university, University of Miami (the first meeting was at UH and the second at LSU). The environment was extremely collaborative and even though they were only funded a few weeks ago, they were already making joint presentations as to their plans. Dr. Elnashai stated that the HuRRI submitted an Engineering pre-proposal last week for the largest funded program in the National Science Foundation and also the most competitive. The success rates were between 3-4%; however, if UH was extremely fortunate and succeeded, it would be roughly \$40-50M over 10 years and that would change features of the College of Engineering and UH.
- The Center for Carbon Management and Energy, a new DoR university-level research center, had been, provisionally, approved. The center had begun working at the same time the proposal was being submitted to the Research & Scholarship Committee for their review. There would be two co-directors – one from the Cullen College of Engineering (Ramanan Krishnamoorti) and one from UH Law Center (Tracy Hester). The co-directors would be addressing legislation and regulation while also strongly focusing on the technical side. Dr. Elnashai

added that the DoR had great hopes for the center as the focus would be very timely and the team was very strong and that eight to ten professors from various colleges had submitted letters of intent to contribute and push the agenda for carbon management and energy.

- The draft agreement with the Baylor College of Medicine had been accepted by both institutions for very broad research and education as well as the exchange of faculty agreement. A formal announcement would be forthcoming.
- The DoR, about three - four months ago, had a committee that looked at the distribution of indirect costs between the colleges, DoR and the university centers. VP Elnashai explained that, currently, if faculty submitted proposals through the centers, the colleges were cut off from the IDC so colleges were not encouraging faculty to joining centers. The DoR recommended a model that would unplug the centers from the IDC process. The IDC would be shared between DoR and the colleges in the same ratio regardless of who submitted the proposal. There would be a set of metrics used to adjust direct funding from DoR to the institutes and centers and the system centers would have a very small operation budget and then a scaled budget that represents their activity. If they were focusing on education, they would be assuming credit hours in addition to a percentage of the IDC (not from the IDC) but from DoR's budget. This process would be an incentive for the colleges to encourage their faculty to join centers. Dr. Elnashai further explained that the proposal was presented to the Council of Deans, with gracious acceptance from Provost Short who allowed the DoR to have one of the meeting she had with the Council of Deans. The presentation was also sent to the Council of Deans last week. With the understanding that the transition would be tricky and there would be winners and losers, VP Elnashai stated that the DoR would be stepping in to minimize the loss element with support, for a time, for the growth of the research enterprise.

#### **Special Presentation by Faculty Senate President: [Dan O'Connor](#)**

President O'Connor explained that he had a special presentation to make adding that, whenever a former President left the Senate, they were presented with an award. Dr. O'Connor stated that with Dr. Horn's intelligence, leadership, grace and passion and her selfless and giving personality, she was a delight to with. He added that with all of her accomplishments as a scholar and leader at all levels of the university (and outside the university), Dr. Horn earned universal respect for herself and the work she garnered. Dr. O'Connor reemphasized her contributions, specifically, to the Senate and the Executive Committee, adding that when Dr. Horn was President, she instituted processes on how the Executive Committee and Senate identified their priorities, organized work around those priorities across committees and clearly communicated these priorities to campus leaders. President O'Connor explained that that had been transformative in the way the Faculty Senate interacted with Administration. He noted that one of the administrators recently told him that, over the past couple of years, the Senate had become more professional in its approach. He added that he inquired what they meant and their response was that the Senate was more focused and more strategic in its business and interactions with all campus constituents, and, of course, with the Administration. President O'Connor stated that this was a high complement adding that the topics were not just, at the moment, but most of what was discussed was ongoing concerns of the faculty and the academic endeavor at large. He added that all this was due to the fact of Dr. Horn implementation in providing some structure to the Faculty Senate's processes and functions. President O'Connor stated that he believed that this would allow the Senate to continue to increase in its effectiveness and influence in the coming years making its work more efficient and impactful.

Dr. O'Connor went on to say that it was no secret that Dr. Horn was a close friend that he respected and admired deeply. He added that, with the privilege of working with her over the past few years, he had learned much and he was sure he was not the only one who shared that sentiment.

On behalf of the Faculty Senate, President O'Connor presented Dr. Horn with a token of appreciation in recognition for her service to the Faculty Senate and to the university.

#### **Farewell Address by the 2018 Faculty Senate President: [Dan O'Connor](#)**

President O'Connor spoke about how quickly time had passed and how grateful he was for the continued close and strong relationship the Faculty Senate had with the Administration. The teamwork and combined efforts had shown that focus on priorities and the future could make anything possible. Looking back, Dr. O'Connor stated that he was very fortunate to have worked with such a strong, dedicated, energetic and committed Executive Committee and he thanked

each of them for seeking wide perspectives, bringing facts to the table and using reason and critical thinking to guide the direction of the Faculty Senate. He expressed gratitude for the close friendships made along the way.

He thanked the Senators, past and present, whose work often went under-recognized reminding them that what they did every day mattered to the students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni of this great university. He added that, as Senators, they had the privilege of representing their colleagues and contributed to the university's success. He encouraged them to remain engaged in the broader work and thanked the Senators noting the great pleasure it was working alongside them and with the Senate staff.

Looking forward, President O'Connor stated he was confident the Senate would continue to grow in influence and credibility as the voice of the UH faculty and he knew that incoming Faculty Senate President Raúl Ramos had a great understanding of the broader challenges facing the university as well as the local challenges facing the colleges and other units. Dr. O'Connor continued by stating that he thought that Dr. Ramos' level-headed, reasoned approach and passion for faculty voice, academic freedom and integrity, and inclusiveness would represent the faculty well at all levels and he was excited to watch Dr. Ramos' leadership and the Senate's actions over the next year when UH would be seeing many important and impactful activities begin or expand.

President O'Connor closed by saying he had greatly enjoyed his time on the Executive Committee and as President and the past couple of years had been the most rewarding and fulfilling of his time at UH. He thanked the Senators for the opportunity to represent them and the entire faculty over the past year.

#### **Presentation of Gavel Plaque: [Raúl Ramos](#)**

President-Elect Ramos explained that another tradition of the Faculty Senate was the outgoing President receiving a commemorative gavel plaque. The quote which Dr. Ramos selected for the gavel plaque was from Sam Houston as Dr. O'Connor was a Texan and he thought that Dr. O'Connor showed the kind of quiet, steady leadership that one would expect from someone having grown up in this region. Dr. Ramos stated that one of the few times Sam Houston spoke on education, he was quoted as saying "*Knowledge is the food of genius, and my son, let no opportunity escape you to treasure up knowledge.*" Dr. Ramos added, with regard to the continued effort of producing knowledge, creating knowledge, spreading knowledge, sharing knowledge that they did as faculty, Dr. O'Connor had made that possible and continued to make that a goal of our institution.

#### **Passing of the University Commencement Mace: [Dan O'Connor](#)**

President O'Connor explained that the last tradition/role he had as President was the passing of the university mace. He explained that the mace represented the university and its power and authority. Dr. O'Connor passed the mace, as outgoing President, to incoming President Raúl Ramos.

#### **Inaugural Address by the 2019 Faculty Senate President: [Raúl Ramos](#)**

President Ramos began by thanking Dr. O'Connor for his leadership and support of the Faculty Senate over the last two years. He added that having him as President and Dr. Cortina as President-Elect was a sign of how much had changed and how far we have come. Dr. Ramos explained that Dr. O'Connor had been a tireless advocate for faculty independence and shared decision making during his time as President. He added that as he worked with Dr. O'Connor over the last year, Dr. O'Connor influenced his way of seeing and engaging the University. He further stated that Dr. O'Connor always asked questions to understand how and why the University worked and he used that knowledge to strategically assert the faculty voice.

Dr. Ramos noted that the two needs for the President's role were to represent the faculty in a unique and necessary perspective to effectively accomplish the mission of the University of Houston and to lead the Senate in such a manner as to maintain and continue shared governance. President Ramos stated that the faculty participation in the functioning of the university placed education and research at the center of decision-making with the needs of teaching and research occasionally contradicting economic efficiency or current cultural and political trends. He added that the faculty took the long view to see achievement and discovery. President Ramos explained that faculty shared governance was meaningful beyond a seat at the table. It was fundamentally about bringing imagination and innovation to the faculty's work and imagining a different future, a different University, a different city and state and, ultimately, a different world. He explained that it might sound hopeful or naïve but, what was teaching and research, if not a leap of faith that our students could

evolve and that our contribution would make a difference. He added that all too often, that was a difference that was not always seen.

President Ramos dedicated this year to making clear the many ways faculty would make a difference for the University of Houston, the University for Houston, for the Gulf Coast, for the Nation and for the World. He added that shared governance should be taken seriously and required heavy lifting and he reminded all the Senators that shared governance also required participation in many places in the University and asked them to consider taking leadership positions in the Senate and to communicate across all levels. President Ramos stated he used to consider the Faculty Senate's work "uncompensated labor" but he had since realized that the service of a Senator was an important part of the 20% service aspect of the faculty's Work Load Policy and it was also important to bring faculty perspective and advocate for the development of new faculty, for the benefit of the students and the growth of UH's research projects.

President Ramos stated that as he looked over the horizon of the coming year, he saw the need to participate in on-going projects noting that: the Faculty Senate would remain engaged with the Research endeavor, especially through maintaining communication regarding the "50-in-5 Initiative"; the University had undertaken the challenge to evaluate and improve budgeting through the Budget Transparency Committee; and, the University would be expanding in an entirely new way through the Medical School. This meant that the Faculty Senate would be activating the recently approved Reapportionment guidelines to accommodate and incorporate new faculty. The Faculty Senate would continue to explore ways to institutionalize the insights and practices of the Advance grant as the NSF funds were winding down. Dr. Ramos added there would be new challenges and the Senate was equipped to meet them. He mentioned the importance of the Senate staff and the support of the Provost's office.

Dr. Ramos close by stating he was enthusiastic about what was possible when faculty and administration worked together. And, having spent the last year participating in the Senate committees as well as meetings to engaged faculty and seeing the many ways they collaborate and influence the University, he believed a different University was possible. With that, President Ramos said "Let's get to work!"

Adjournment: 1:05 p.m.