



**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
12:15 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Raúl Ramos called the May 8, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:22 p.m. He spoke about success and seeing students in their graduation robes celebrating years of hard work with their families, support systems and recognized the faculty who helped them along the way.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (49)

ARCH: P. Peters
BUS: D. Currie, J. Hess, P. Kumar, M. Murray
CLASS: F. Bunta, P. Butler, W. Breslin, J. Cortina, M. Dunkelberger, D. Hernandez, J. Kleinheider, R. Ramos, C. Spitzmueller
CON: S. Lee
COTA: A. Noble
EDU: S. Gronseth
ENGR: J. Conrad, Y. Mo, M. Nikolaou, D. Shattuck, G. Song
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Draper, C. Morosan
LIB: K. Creelman, A. Malone
NSM: J. Briggs, R. Capuano, R. Forrest, B. George, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, D. Pattison, C. Ratti, Z. Ren, N. Rizk, C. Wayne
OPT: D. Currie, S. Modi, J. Porter
PHA: G. Cuny, D. Thornton
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, F. Merchant,

MEMBERS ABSENT: (85)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kubo, S. Rifaat
BUS: S. Basu, N. Johnson, T. Kong, O. Miljanic, A. Narayanan, L. Silva, G. Smith, S. Werner
CLASS: E. Aleman, C. Alfano, J. Babcock, P. Blake, J. Clarke, S. Craig, J. Fix, D. Foss, H. Glass, S. Grigorian, A. Hernandez, M. Ivey, D. Papell, T. Romero, G. San Miguel, C. Sharp, C. Sisk, A. Vujanovic, J. Wingard
CON: C. Brohard
COTA: C. Boone, R. Bush, F. Fernando, J. Mueller, K. Rigdon, S. Wallace
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Culpepper, W. Fan, J. Gonzalez, L. Hutchinson, M. Lee, A. Thompson
ENGR: S. Brankovic, P. Cirino, J. Chen, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, M. Robertson
GCSW: R. Gearing, S. Jennings, P. Leung, S. Narendorf
HON: D. Gish, S. Long
HRM: J. Madera, D.C. Taylor
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, J. Heppard, P. Linzer
LIB: N. Dethloff, W. Gao, C. Gola
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, G. Gunaratne, T. Lapen, V. Lubchenko, E. Papadakis, A. Quaini, S. Xu
OPT: V. Das, K. Fern, R. Manny
PHA: R. Ghose, T. Hussain, B. McConnell, S. Salim, V. Tam
RES CTRS: S. Chung
TECH: H. Hutchins, G. Zouridakis

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

VISITORS: Renu Khator (Chancellor/President, UH System); Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President; Amr Elnashai (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Research and Technology Transfer; Lisa Holdeman (Vice Chancellor/Vice President (University Marketing Communications & Media Relations); Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs); Dan O'Connor (Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences)

Minutes: The minutes of the April 17, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

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

President Ramos recognized Faculty Senator Lars Grabow (Research & Scholarship Committee) and his research team at the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering department in the Cullen College of Engineering on how their research related to aspects of everyone's everyday lives. He also recognized Doug Thornton (Community & Government Relations Committee) and his team who were awarded \$3,340,000 from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for their project on Texas Improved Dissemination and Evaluation of Single-Use Disposal Pouches.

Dr. Ramos gave special recognition to Associate Professor Katy Greenwood (College of Technology) on her retirement after 35 years of service at the University of Houston. He thanked Dr. Greenwood for her 18 years of service to the Faculty Senate where she had served on most every committee as an advocate for shared governance.

Pres. Ramos noted that the Faculty Senate had been following the legislative decisions that affected the university including the establishment of the College of Medicine, as well as the pension system, the continued funding of the TRS and the request for higher education to have a seat on the TRS board.

Presentation of the 2019 Elections Results & UH Grievance Committee Election Results: [Donna Pattison](#), Faculty Governance Chair

FGC Chair Pattison announced that the 2019 UH Grievance Committee election concluded on May 1st and results were certified on May 7th. She added that, of the 1,374 eligible voters, 0 faculty opted out, while 462 cast a ballot for a campus participation rate of 34%. Faculty elected to a three-year term were:

Tenure Track:

Patrick Cirino, ENGR
Cynthia Clayton, COTA
Fatima Merchant, TECH
MariVi Tejada-Simon, PHA

Non-Tenure Track:

Katy Badeaux, LIB

Dr. Pattison stated that the 2019 elections for directly-elected committees had concluded with the following faculty members elected to the Faculty Senate for a 3-year term (except where noted).

Graduate & Professional Studies Committee (GPSC):

Consuelo Arbona EDU
Susan Scarrow CLASS

Jeremy May NSM
Joe Wheat OPT (1-year term ending 8/15/2020)
Meghan Trivedi PHA

Research & Scholarship Committee (RSC):

Gangbing Song ENGR
Lynn Maher CLASS
Dave Fagundes LAW

Santi Thompson LIB
Scott Gilbertson NSM
Diana Chow PHA

Undergraduate Committee (UC):

Teresa Chapman COTA
Kristen Hassett EDU
David Shattuck ENGR
Holley Love ENGR
Dustin Gish HON

Ruxandra Boul CLASS
Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau CLASS
Rebecca Forrest NSM
Giulia Toti NSM
Pattie Schrader CON

It was noted that there was an unfilled seat on the Undergraduate Committee for the College of Technology and the election would be held the following week. Dr. Pattison congratulated all incoming and returning Senators and noted that the election results would be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Second reading of Proposal to shift Faculty Senate elections to the academic year calendar and Vote: [Donna Pattison](#), Faculty Governance Chair

FGC Chair Pattison reminded the Senators that, in the April Faculty Senate meeting, the proposed calendar shift for elections was discussed. She explained that half of the Senate was currently on an academic calendar and the other half was on a regular calendar year (January-January). As a recap, Dr. Pattison explained that the calendar shift would move all the Senators and Senate leadership positions to the academic year.

Chair Pattison stated that the FGC was recommending the following:

- all terms would coincide with the academic calendar;
- all Senator terms would begin on August 20th and end on August 19th of the following year; and,
- leadership terms would begin at the first full meeting of the Senate in September and end at the first full meeting of the following year.

She explained that the proposed transition to the academic year would be as listed below:

- next election of all Senators would occur in Spring 2020, with terms beginning in September 2020;
- current At-Large Senators would serve an extra 8 months (Jan-Aug) to transition the Faculty Senate to the calendar year;
- special elections would be held to replace anyone who was unable to extend their term; and
- elections would shift from November to April for regular Senate seats and term starts shift from January to September.
- The rationale for adding the 8 months to the currently elected Senator terms, rather than to the next elected Senator's term, was for the immediate transition to one election cycle a year rather than three more years of two elections a year plus all the needed special elections.

She then addressed the Faculty Senate leadership academic year election transition implementation process and noted that:

- the current President-elect would take the helm in January 2020, as currently planned, but would remain President until September 2021;
- the new President-Elect would serve as President-Elect from January 2020 - September 2021; and,
- the same scenario would apply for the Faculty Senate Secretary, Governance Committee, and Athletics Delegate.

FGC Chair Donna Pattison conducted the second reading of the proposed bylaws changes for the election calendar shifts and explained that the changes required to the Senate's constitution (highlighted in red) would be minimal and included the following:

- **Article One--Membership**
 - *Section Six--Regular elections for a Senate seat shall be held a minimum of three months prior to the start of the new term.* The Faculty Governance Committee will run each college election and shall certify the results of such elections to the secretary of the Faculty Senate.
Procedural change: Elections shift to April. The Faculty Governance Committee will certify the elections in May.
- **Article Four**
 - *Section Five--Except as provided elsewhere, the Faculty Governance Committee shall oversee the election of all Faculty Senate members and its officers. At the last regular February meeting of the Senate in November,* the committee shall present two nominations for the positions of president-elect and secretary, and four nominations for the two at-large positions on the executive committee. The committee shall also present fourteen nominees to fill the twelve elective positions on the Faculty Governance Committee.....

➤ **Article Four**

- *Section Five*--Senators whose term of office is about to expire and who have not been re-elected to an additional term by ~~October 31~~ **May 31st** are eligible for election to the Faculty Governance Committee, but not the other positions.

➤ **Article Six**

- *Section Two*--The first regular meeting will be held in **January September**, after the beginning of the **spring fall** semester.
- *Section Three*--Prior to the **February October** meeting, the Executive Committee shall present a calendar of regular meetings for the remainder of the calendar year.

FGC Chair Pattison asked the Senators if there were any questions or concerns and there were none. She then called for a by-the-hands vote. All Senators voted to approve moving all the elections to the academic calendar, with none in opposition. Dr. Pattison stated that they would begin the work of transitioning immediately.

Special Presentation by Faculty Senate President: [Raúl Ramos](#)

President Ramos explained that one of the traditions of the Senate was the recognition of former Presidents after they had rotated off the Senate following their year of service as the FGC Chair. He added that past President O'Connor was called to service as Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences and had to step down before completing his service as FGC chair. Dr. Ramos thanked Dr. O'Connor for being an advisor and mentor as well as for being thoughtful, fair, evidence-based and always helpful. President Ramos recognized Dr. O'Connor for his years of service and leadership with the presentation of the crystal gavel as a symbol of appreciation from the Faculty Senate.

Presentation on Faculty Values Statement: [Raúl Ramos](#)

Dr. Ramos stated that the Executive Committee (EC) had approved the Faculty Values Statement as recommended by the Faculty Affairs Committee to articulate the roles, responsibilities and high standards of the faculty. He explained that it was not a code of conduct, but a positive statement of beliefs to be used as a guide. With the EC's approval, the statement would be forwarded to the FGC for inclusion in the newly updated Faculty Handbook.

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

President Khator thanked everyone for attending the meeting with their busy schedules at the end of the semester. She expressed her gratitude to past Faculty Senate President Dan O'Connor for his outstanding leadership ability, his continued support and for all his work on the College of Medicine. She also complimented all the Senators who were involved with the creation of the Faculty Values Statement noting it was well-stated, articulated and very solid.

Chancellor Khator gave the following updates:

- The Legislature had approved the College of Medicine, with an uncontested agenda, and it was now in the state statue. She noted that they would have to continue working on funding for the College of Pharmacy. Additionally, they were hopeful on the funding for the Law School building as it was in the TRB; however, the TRB bill was not moving and they may have to seek funding elsewhere.
- The House and Senate had both put forth funding for additionally enrolled students with the amount of funding yet to be determined.
- This year, UH had 31,459 freshman student applications, a solid increase which broke the 30,000 student application barrier. Pres. Khator added that 6,267 students would be graduating and, counting the summer graduates (663), the total graduating class would be 6,930. Pres. Khator added that this graduation number was major because it was more students than most of the Houston school's student bodies.
- President Khator noted that she hosted a reception for the 14 students with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She noted that the oldest graduate was 70 and the youngest was 18.
- At the NCAA meeting in Indianapolis, Dr. Khator mentioned that, as member of the Board of Governors and Division I Directors, two issues were discussed - the University of North Carolina situation regarding academic

misconduct and Esports. She also mentioned that she had been put on a committee for college sports wagering as it had recently become legal.

Pres. Khator thanked everyone for their hard work and for giving the students such a positive experience. She wished the faculty a good break to prepare for the fall. She added that, beginning on July 1st, there would be 51 UH medical residents in area hospitals.

Presentation of 2019 March Madness by University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for University Marketing Communications & Media Relations: [Lisa K. Holdeman](#)

VP Holdeman stated she would like to share how UH's Marketing Communications & Media Relations used "windows of opportunity" to advance and elevate the university's brand nationally. This year, the focus was on March Madness (March 15 – 29). She explained how they used comparative data with a fifteen day average for this fiscal year and compared that with the fourteen days during the AAC Tournament and the NCAA Tournament (Rounds 1, 2, 3).

- With earned media (press releases), basketball only represented 17% of UH's news nationally (approaching five million views with all UH news), but it accounted for 41% of the reach (number of potential viewers that had been exposed to the UH brand through media mentions). The basketball news stories were 135% of the average reach per clip.
- There was a significant lift in social media with basketball impressions (number of times a piece of social media content was seen by a user) measuring 29% higher than impressions of UH's total content. Basketball engagements (when someone liked, shared or clicked video views) measured 415% higher than the normal engagement for social media. And, the engagement rate (engagements per post) was 382% higher. There were four videos produced that received +114K views and +130K engagements.
- Digital display ads showcasing UH academic achievements were also placed on sports sights in Houston and geo-targeted to opponent cities and game locations including Tulsa, Memphis, Atlanta, Lexington and Columbus. These ads produced +89K impressions and +260 views. Video ads were also placed in the same geo-targeted areas and they generated +5K views, which was above industry benchmarks.
- The billboard placed at I-59 and I-45 generated +2.1M impressions. On the UH web site, (though they could not link the performance to the basketball) the admissions page views were 75% higher than the fiscal year to date; the career page views were 12.7% higher and future student page views were up 9.1%.
- Licensing revenue from branded merchandise sales at the two on-campus UH team stores for Quarter 1 (year/year) showed a 139% increase that transferred back to the university as royalty income.

In closing, she noted that Marketing Communications & Media Relations was also working with the Division of Research (DoR) and other areas to help elevate the university's brand awareness.

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 announced new endeavors that involved extending the UH research portfolio. He explained that the DoR hosted the Army Futures Command a few weeks prior. The meeting went well and included a presentation from President Khator followed by a technical presentation with hands-on experiments allowing the guests to utilize equipment. A returned visit, organized by the 75th Army Innovation Center (associated with the Army Futures Command), was scheduled for the following week. The DoR also hosted the Deputy Director of the Army Research Lab South and the feedback was that the technologies being developed at UH were ready to be evaluated by the Army because of their immediate relevance.

Dr. Elnashai stated that several discussions have taken place with Humana following their endowment to the university and the agreement that was reached with the College of Medicine (CoM). The DoR was working with the CoM Founding Dean Stephen Spann and Humana on how to support Humana's endeavors and priorities via UH's research capabilities. VP Elnashai stated that UH needed to move Humana to a broader research agenda and, to that end, they would be meeting with the Health Research Institute.

The DoR was engaged in a major proposal, headed by Texas A&M, where UH was a significant partner. UH hosted a meeting with Texas A&M, which included AVP Neuhauser and Chief Energy Officer Krishnamoorti, where they visited the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute (HPE DSI). The HPE DIS expressed interest in being part of the proposal from the Department of Energy for a \$75M grant to establish one center in the U.S. The pre-proposal would be submitted on May 15th followed by a full proposal sometime in July.

Dr. Elnashai explained that, as part of the “50-in-5” Initiative, there was a workshop the previous day on the preparation of center proposals that included a panel of UH Research Directors as well as representatives from McAllister & Quinn. The next full-day workshop on proposal development training would be scheduled for November. VP Elnashai noted he was working with McAllister & Quinn to see what offering could be made between now and the November training workshop.

Also related to “50-in-5” Initiative, the DoR was working with the Provost’s Office on the formal agreement between all the colleges and the Provost’s office in terms of what matrix the colleges and Deans chose by which to be measured. He explained that the measurement time period began on September 2018 and they would be evaluating in September 2019 to see how the colleges were fairing. Expectations were that the measurements would be about the same as previous years and trend upwards as the initiative measures that have been put into place take hold.

VP Elnashai stated that the DoR was working toward a more comprehensive way of collecting data in an automated, systemic and seamless way. He explained there was a 78 slide deck that detailed everything the DoR covered which included comprehensive information on expenditures and proposals. He added there would be another set of slides comparing UH with other Texas universities. He also mentioned that the DoR was working on a mobile application where faculty could check the status of their proposals and reports submissions online.

End-of-Year Reports from Faculty Senate Committees

President Ramos explained that the Faculty Senate committee’s work was the heart of shared governance that assisted in keeping the university advancing and accomplishing its mission. The three committees who would be giving their reports were incorporated a little more than a decade ago because of their roles being closely tied to administrative needs and their importance in keeping academic goals at the forefront of review and insight in terms of university operations.

➤ Graduate & Professional Studies Committee: Raúl Ramos on behalf of Sheara Williams Jennings, Chair

Dr. Ramos thanked the GPSC leadership team including Chair Sheara Jennings and noted he would be giving the GPSC report in her absence. He announced that the next Vice Chair would be Senator George Zouridakis. Pres. Ramos thanked the subcommittee chairs including Jason Porter (Academic Program Evaluation), Greg Cuny (Graduate Student Affairs), Anne Delcour (Graduate Policies) and Laura Frishman (Graduate Admissions) and their members. The GPSC’s membership included 39 faculty representatives from all colleges and professional schools with two librarians and two graduate students.

- Key accomplishments included:
 - the development and submission of proposed recommendations to the Graduate School to address the affordability of graduate student health insurance (6-month process);
 - the preparation of a draft to establish a Graduate Students Rights & Responsibilities document (7-month process; Next Steps-Graduate School Dean, UH Legal, GPSC);
 - the transition, succession and onboarding activities with new Graduate School Dean and Vice Provost, Dr. Sarah Larsen; and,
 - supporting graduate student travel fellowships with 96 proposals reviewed and 61 fellowships awarded.
- Policy approvals included the Admissions Policy Revision (Nursing & Human Nutrition) and the Graduate Student Assistantships Overload Policy.
- Proposal approvals were as listed below:
 - 27 of 28 submitted proposals approved to offer new degree & dual degree programs, certificates & concentrations
 - 5 CIP Code Changes
 - 9 Curriculum/Program Updates/SCH +/-
 - 84 New Courses

- 66 Course Revisions
- 14 Course Deletions

President Ramos expressed thanks, on behalf of GPSC Chair Jennings, to everyone on the leadership team, the subcommittees, membership and the Graduate School.

➤ **Research & Scholarship Committee: Gangbing Song, Chair 59:40**

Chair Gangbing Song explained the RSC was the faculty governance body that assisted the university administration, more specifically the DoR, on matters pertaining to research development. He explained that the RSC oversaw the internal grant program and managed the Faculty Research Excellence Awards, made specific recommendations to the VP of Research Technology Transfer that promoted the enhancement and development of research activity.

The activities over the past year included:

- Working closely with the DoR to develop initiatives and policies to enhance the research capabilities of faculty, most recently the “50-in-5” initiative.
 - ❖ “50-in-5”, which aimed to increase research efforts and scholarly output by 50 percent in five years
- Continuing to work with the DoR on the research thrusts
- In particular, administering Year 2 of internal grants programs focused on the thrust areas:
 - ❖ SEED Grant Program
 - ❖ Equipment Grant Programs (Small and Large Equipment)

Chair Song detailed the managing of internal grants programs as listed below. He encouraged faculty to apply for the Small Grants and New Faculty Awards as much available funding was unutilized.

Name	Budget	Chair	Submissions	Funded
Small Grants	\$ 90,000 (\$5K max/each)	Cristian Morosan	15	(14) \$ 66,248
New Faculty Awards	\$150,000 (\$6K max/each)	Cristian Morosan	11	(7) \$ 42,000
Research Excellence Awards	\$ 48,000 (\$8K max/each)	Vallabh Das	34	(6) \$ 48,000
GEAR Awards	\$250,000 (\$40K max/each)	Karolos Grigoriadis	23	(7) \$250,000
SEED Awards	\$420,000 (\$70K max/each)	Carla Sharp	50	(7) \$420,000
Equipment (Large)	\$50k-\$250K Total: \$1.5M	Randy Lee	12	(7) \$1,380,974 (Total: \$1.66M)
Equipment (Small)	(\$50K max/each)	Randy Lee	7	(6) \$286,669

Other RSC activities included:

- Centers and Institutes – Gemunu Gunaratne
- Open Access Initiative – Santi Thompson and Vallabh Das
- Animal Research – Sanghyuk Chung
- Bridge Funding – Stuart Long
- Collaboration with UH Advance – Holly Hutchins
- Co-organized the 50-in-5 Impact Workshop with the DoR (April 3, 2019)
- Completed annual RSC planning meeting on Monday May 6, 2019

Dr. Song closed by announcing the new RSC leadership with Chair Randy Lee and Vice Chair Carla Sharp. He gave special thanks to Amr Elnashai, Claudia Neuhauser and Jack Fletcher noting how much he enjoyed working with the DoR. He thanked the committee members and Senate staff for their work and support.

President Ramos thanked Dr. Song, personally, for stepping in to be the RSC chair when Dr. Ramos was elected as Faculty Senate President.

➤ **Undergraduate Committee: Martha Dunkelberger, Chair 1:06**

Chair Martha Dunkelberger explained that the Undergraduate Committee met monthly as a full committee with the addition of three-four subcommittee meetings as they review proposals for program, Texas Common Core Course and non-core course creations, revisions and deletions as well as policy proposals that affect the workings of the undergraduate programs of the university. The UC had review about 500 proposals between August and March. She recognized and thanked her subcommittee chairs including Dave Shattuck, Sandy Lee, Donna Pattison, Becki George, Kerry Creelman and Rebecca Forrest. She thanked Shonnita Leslie from the Provost Office for her service to the committee as a Program Manager. Dr. Dunkelberger described the committee of 32 directly-elected senators and gave examples of all the work they did outside of the committee.

Dr. Dunkelberger explained that the UC had also conducted reapportionment and revised their bylaws to restructure the Chair elections to the academic year (much like the Faculty Senate). She added that they worked very hard to maintain the integrity of the academic policies, programs and curriculum at the university with work that was integral to the improvement in graduation rates, as the Provost showcased in the April Faculty Senate meeting. And, Chair Dunkelberger stated that she looked forward to August, when they could start the process all over again.

President Ramos thanked the Chairs, subcommittees and all the Senators for all their work noting that it was their real commitment to shared governance and university operations that helped to make UH a better place for its students as well as for UH to engage the community, the region, the nation, and the world in terms of its scholarship. He closed by noting that the Faculty Senate meetings would reconvene on September 18th.

Adjournment: 1:33 p.m.