



**Fall Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2019
12:15 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Raúl Ramos called the October 16, 2019 Fall Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:20 p.m. He welcomed both the current and new Senators and guests, briefly described the purpose for the Faculty Senate meetings.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (78)

ARCH: D, Froehlich, M. Kubo, P. Peters
BUS: S. Basu, D. Currie, J. Hess, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, M. Murray, S. Werner
CLASS: P. Blake, F. Bunta, P. Butler, W. Breslin, J. Cortina, M. Dunkelberger, F. Fernando, J. Fix, 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,
COTA: T. Chapman, N. Harren. R. Valls
EDU: J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, L. Hutchinson, A. Thompson
ENGR: J. Conrad, H. Love, M. Robertson, D. Shattuck,
GCSW: P. Leung, S. Narendorf
HON: D. Gish, S. Long
HRM:
Law: J. Heppard
LIB: K. Creelman, N. Dethloff, C. Gola, A. Malone,
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, R. Capuano, B. George, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, M. Papadakis, N. Rizk, J. Sisson, G. Toti, C. Wayne
OPT: R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter, K. Fern, J. Wheat
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, T. Hussain, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

MEMBERS ABSENT: (54)

ARCH:
BUS: O. Miljanic, A. Narayanan, L. Silva, G. Smith
CLASS: E. Aleman, R. Boul, S. Craig, D. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Sharp, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic, J. Wingard
CON: P. Schrader
COTA: J. Mueller, K. Rigdon
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, Y. Mo,
ENGR: J. Chen, P. Cirino, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, Y, Mo, M. Nikolaou, S. Shevkoplyas, G. Song, Y. Yao
GCSW: S. Jennings
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Draper, J. Madera, C. Morosan, D. Taylor
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, A. Michaels
LIB: S. Thompson
NSM: J. Briggs, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, V. Lubchenko, A. Quaini, C. Ratti, Z. Ren, S. Xu
OPT: D. Currie, V. Das,
PHA: R. Ghose,

RES FAC: O. Bannova, S. Chung

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: Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs); Amr Elnashai (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Division of Research & Transfer Technology), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President); Renu Khator (Chancellor/President, University of Houston System/University of Houston), Maria Elena Soliño (Hispanic Studies), Norah Gharala (History), Melody Karle (University Libraries), Mea Warren, (University Libraries), Lucy Kehinde (Optometry), Erica Lopez (University Libraries)

Minutes: The minutes of the September 18, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

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

The Faculty Senate biennial conference “Building Healthy Communities Through Partnerships” was successful due to the meticulous planning of the Community & Government Relations Committee chair Fleurette Fernando & At-Large Member Daphne Hernandez. Dr. Ramos also thanked the Faculty Senate staff Jeanette Morales and Jill Bays-Purtill for their hard work. He also thanked the speakers, moderators, and the College of Medicine Leadership for helping make the conference successful and productive. The pre-registration enrollment went to capacity and over 150 individuals attended the conference. Pres. Ramos stated that this conference is an example of exploring and growing collaborations across campus. The Faculty Senate can serve as a vehicle to continue to develop these connections.

Dr. Ramos announced that the Faculty Senate will be launching a climate survey in the next few weeks. This survey is seen as an important part of representing the concerns and perspectives of faculty from diverse disciplines. He encouraged senator to take the survey and asked senators to encourage their colleagues to respond to the survey as well.

Special Presentation: [Raúl Ramos](#)

Dr. María Elena Soliño was presented the traditional crystal gavel by President Raúl Ramos in recognition for her service as the 2014 Faculty Senate President and her years of service as senator. Dr. Soliño thanked the Faculty Senate for giving her the opportunity to serve and learn about how the university works. She also thanked Drs. Khator and Short for their guidance while serving as Senate president.

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

Dr. Khator mentioned that she attended the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) meeting this morning. The GHP finally came up with a vision for higher education in Houston. A consulting group was hired to analyze the future needs for the Houston community. The data gathered from the study will help UH with its own strategic planning. She told the GHP that the best strategy is to focus on the local university.

Pres. Khator thanked those who attended her fall address on October 2, 2019. The address is posted online.

She briefed the Faculty Senate on the following items:

- UH Enrollment is flat this year (decreased graduate & transfer enrollment). Freshman/Transfer ratio is 56:44. The ratio is usually 60:40. However, the freshmen class is the strongest and largest enrollment ever. Next year’s enrollment will be considered for state funding.
- The \$50 million anonymous gift (ASPIRE fund) was given to UH and is focused on faculty endowment and four institutes are to be established. These institutes are focused on: 1)

health, 2) energy, 3) resilient infrastructure, and global engagement (emphasis on teaching). Currently the University of Houston is \$118 million dollars over its billion dollar campaign goal and has ten and a half months ago. The ASPIRE fund is a match fund and after UH reaches its goal, there should be a total of \$100 million dollars that will go to the faculty endowment. Guidelines will be forthcoming and the provost is working on it.

- Renu Khator informed the Senate that she has met with her cabinet, FS Executive Committee, and college deans to discuss data regarding the Budget Transparency Initiative. The next step is for the committee to create guidelines which will reduce bureaucracy and allow colleges/departments to be entrepreneurial and innovative.
- UH Sugar Land and UH Katy buildings opened recently. The Old Science building opened this fall (used as swing space and also classroom space). Parking Garage 5 is complete: only the retail/multi-use space is still under construction. Parking Garage 6 construction is underway (last garage for now) and is targeted for completion in summer 2020. Melcher Hall renovation will begin January 2020 and is scheduled for completion by December 2020. The new Quad housing will also open next fall term.
- On November 12th, the Supreme Court will take up the issue about DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). UH along with peer institutions will be watching closely. Dr. Khator said that if the Senate would like to discuss this issue, she suggested to invite General Counsel Dona Cornell to one of the Faculty Senate meetings.

President Khator congratulated the Faculty Senate on a successful, relevant, well-attended conference.

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

Vice President Amr Elnashai presented the Division of Research & Technology Transfer annual report to the Faculty Senate. The main focuses of the report were: “To Serve” and “To Lead”.

Dr. Elnashai reported on the following areas that the Division of Research (DoR) has served the faculty community.

A. DoR Internal Training

- DoR contracted with Human Resources to create a two-year HR training program to train staff and leadership on how to better serve faculty members. The division is in its second year and it has been progressing in a positive direction.
- There are four focus training areas: Communication Strategies, Customer Service, Building Trust, and Appreciative Inquiry
- Other additional training sessions include: hospitality, customer service, & communication; conflict resolution with emotional intelligence principles; and Business Operations, OGC DAIT, Core Facilities; Feedback from these trainings have been encouraging.

B. Faculty Engagement

- Dr. Elnashai informed that DoR held three 50-in-5 workshops and town halls
- Also the division held ten “University Research Explained” Sessions in the Faculty Café. VP Amr Elnashai encouraged faculty to attend these Faculty Café sessions in their spare time to engage with DoR. These sessions provide up-to-date news from DoR and DoR can receive feedback from faculty.

- C. DoR Mobile App
 - A mobile app was created which is connected to the UH Go App. This app contains basic DoR stats such as: Total proposals submitted, Total Amount Requested, Total New Awards Received, Expenditures (Sponsored), etc. There are plans to expand the app in the future.
- D. OGC Tracking System
 - Dr. Elnashai announced that a new OGC Electronic Tracking System will be rolled out in about a week to ten days. This system will help faculty submit and track their proposals. The portal can be accessed via AccessUH. He encouraged faculty to inform him of issues experienced so it can be improved. It's an accountable system.
- E. McAllister & Quinn
 - Consulting firm has helped UH with: proposal development (i.e., MERSC proposal passed first round), concept papers (30 papers total submitted), workshops (i.e., DoD proposal success), Federal Advisory Committee Nominations, and Coaching (i.e., DARPA concept paper)
- F. Internal Award Programs
 - VP Amr Elnashai stated that DoR has provided additional support to faculty to help energize UH's research enterprise via internal award programs (i.e., Small Grants, GEAR, Seed Research Funds, Excellence in Research and Scholarships, etc.).

Next, VP Amr Elnashai reported on the "To Lead" aspect of his presentation. He said that DoR also wants to manage the intellectual side of the research enterprise and not just the administrative side. Dr. Elnashai presented overviews on the following endeavors.

- A. Institutional Thrusts
 - Four topics were created to focus resources on making an impact on challenges in society:
 - Cyber and Physical Security, Drug Discovery and Development, Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure, and Accessible Healthcare
 - DoR would like to create four core facilities: data, energy, automation, & materials. Currently working with two companies to renovate UH's advanced testing equipment and advanced research equipment (help improve equipment infrastructure).
 - Dr. Elnashai gave a brief overview of progress within HuRRI and Health Research Institute.
- B. 50-in-5
 - Dr. Elnashai gave a value proposition of the 50-in-5 program and outlined how UH will measure and improve its progression of 50-in-5 through: sharing university-wide metrics, and proposing several ways of increasing scholarly output, engagement model to raise UH profile (hire consulting firm and a strategic group for guidance) and recognition events for faculty accomplishments (publications, society awards, \$1 million awards, and patents).
 - Scholar Walk: Sponsored by the Provost's Office in collaboration with UH Communications. It's UH's first electronic art installation which will showcase rotating stories on faculty success.
- C. Major Proposals
 - National Center Award Program: DoR has invited faculty to submit proposals for grants (\$1 million/year); 5 major proposals funded in FY 2019.
- D. FY 2019 Research Expenditures – NSF: \$195 million was reached (a little over 10% increase)
- E. ASPIRE Challenge Institutes

- Global Engagement: Focus on faculty to educate students with regards to the global nature of technology especially in the workplace.
- Resilient Infrastructure and Smart Cities
- Health Innovation
- Sustainability Energy
- There is a timeline for launching the institutes dependent on matching funds. The Global Engagement Institute will be first institute to be launched. The Provost is working on creating the development team who will work on the concept of the institute.

F. Technology Bridge Startups

- There are 24 startups at the Technology Bridge which is filled to capacity; There are plans to expand space for more startups to incubate at the Bridge (potential for equity).
- Three companies established at the Technology Bridge: Oleon (France & Belgium), Saratech (CA, USA), and Scaled Solutions (UK).

VP Amr Elnashai concluded his presentation with a Q and A session.

A senator commented by giving kudos to Dr. Elnashai for the good work he has done so far and for helping to move the needle for UH research endeavors. However he felt that the Division of Research doesn't do enough for the Technology Bridge with regards to the companies. He said he would like to see more concrete examples of company output, value for money invested, and attracting local companies to the Bridge vs. external companies, etc.

Dr. Elnashai responded that he would like to do more with the Technology Bridge. He said there are aspects that limit DoR in what they can do. Specifically the issue of space has been problematic. Previously, there weren't specific plans for the previous incarnation of the Bridge despite that it was doing well. He said his division is doing more work than was done previously. DoR has made the Technology Bridge more visible via advertising (marketing to local community). The Division of Research (DoR) is also meeting regularly with the companies. With regards to value for money, Amr Elnashai stated that the Technology Bridge is to give faculty and students more opportunities for research (i.e., faculty joint research opportunities, training for students). He said UH's role as a venture capital agency for startups is not possible. However, UH can help these startups find venture capital.

The same senator asked Amr Elnashai if the \$4.4 million in faculty programs is yearly. Dr. Elnashai responded that the funding is provided annually.

Faculty Senate Bylaw Revision (1st Reading) presented by Faculty Governance Chair: [Steve Werner](#)

FGC Chair Steve Werner began his presentation by thanking the FGC members for their work. He also thanked previous FGC chair Donna Pattison for her hard work, especially since much of FGC's accomplished tasks were done during her term before resigning in August.

Dr. Werner reported on the following FGC's accomplishments for the calendar year thus far:

- Transition to the academic year calendar
- Increased transparency of committee memberships (posted on FS website)
- Expanded Senate membership to include the College of Medicine faculty
- Cleaning up of Senate Bylaws

FGC Chair Steve Werner introduced the recommended Bylaw revision:

Proposal: Eliminate the clause that requires non-tenure track faculty to have served 3 years at the university before being eligible to run for Faculty Senate.

Dr. Werner explained the reason for the change. The interpretation of the language in question has been confusing to colleges. Does the eligibility rule apply to tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty? The change will decentralize the decision to vote. It will enable the colleges to nominate and vote for the most eligible faculty member to serve on the Senate.

Proposed Revision Language:

An eligible faculty member is a full-time, tenured, ~~or~~ tenure-track, ~~or non-tenure track~~ faculty member ~~or a full-time Library faculty member or a full-time non-tenure track faculty member with at least three years of continuous service~~ at the University of Houston. ~~For the purposes of these Bylaws, a non-tenure track faculty member is defined as instructional, research, or clinical with the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor.~~

A senator asked the FGC chair to display the new proposed language. He also asked if a lecturer can be eligible. Dr. Werner responded that a full-time lecturer is eligible to vote. The senator also asked if an adjunct can run for election. Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Mark Clarke clarified non-tenure track faculty positions: promotion-eligible and non-promotion-eligible. Non-promotion eligible non-tenure track faculty can be lecturers, adjuncts, and professors of practice who work full time. Dr. Steve Werner confirmed that the new proposed bylaw language includes non-PE non-tenure track faculty as long as they have full-time status.

Lastly, FGC Chair Steve Werner mentioned that a second reading of the bylaw revision will need to be done before a vote can occur. Both reading and vote will be scheduled for the next Faculty Senate meeting. He encouraged senators to attend the November meeting.

Reports from Faculty Senate At-Large Committees:

Budget & Facilities Committee Chair: [Norman Johnson](#)

BFC Chair Norman Johnson acknowledged the members of the Budget & Facilities Committees and gave a brief overview of the committee's purpose. He then presented the issues that the committee had focused their attention on over the past year:

- Budget Transparency Model Initiative
- 50-in-5 Initiative

The BFC came up with questions that faculty would ask so that these questions would be considered along the way. These questions have received consideration and the BFC will watch how plans will unfold moving forward. He encouraged faculty to reach out to their representative senators for questions or concerns. Dr. Johnson said that senior administration is very cooperative in addressing faculty concerns that the Faculty Senate brings forth.

With regards to the Budget Transparency Model, Dr. Johnson mentioned the most recent outcome of the Budget Transparency initiative is the BFC's contribution to represent faculty constituents by participating in the various committees and subcommittees (i.e., steering committee, performance subcommittee, activity subcommittee, etc.) to develop the budget process model.

A senator asked what were the set of principles that BFC worked on and has adapted to the Budget Transparency model. Dr. Johnson responded that the clarification/communication of the budget and the questions asked as faculty have been lacking. He said the budget is much more than the numbers. He explained that questions such as: what is going to be done with the money, how is it invested, and what are the expectations are important. The senator responded that the chair's explanation was too broad and wanted an answer that was more concrete with details. BFC Chair

Norman Johnson asked the senator for an example. The senator gave an example of finding discrepancies in the academic budget vs. the rest of the university budget. Norman Johnson said the BFC has analyzed the budget as whole very carefully and hadn't seen any anomalies. Dr. Johnson said he would be happy to meet with the senator to discuss the issue further.

Community & Government Relations Committee Chair: [Fleurette Fernando](#)

Professor Fernando acknowledged the Community & Government Relations Committee (CGRC) members and thanked them for their hard work over the past year.

She then gave a brief summary of the CGRC activities:

- Weeks of Welcome
 - CGRC members participated in four days during the UH weeks of welcome events.
 - Megan Robertson and Dan Currie help spearhead the Senate's participation for this event.
- APeX: Assistant Professor Excellence Lecture Series
 - Received thirty one applications across nine colleges
 - Four applicants were selected: Dr. Tiffany Legendre (9/25/19), Dr. Zheng Chen (10/23/19), Dr. Summer Harlow (1/29/20), and Dr. Sang Byung Seo (2/26/20)
 - Professor Fleurette Fernando thanked the subcommittee chairs Drs. Mo and Grigorian for leading and coordinating the application cycle.
- Biennial Conference: "Building Healthy Communities Through Partnerships"
 - CGRC Chair Fernando thanked Daphne Hernandez, Susie Gronseth, and Jeanette Morales for their help with the conference.
 - The conference was well attended with several exciting speakers. Attendees were able to exchange ideas and network with each other.

Lastly, Fleurette Fernando thanked all the subcommittees for their hard work this past year.

Faculty Affairs Committee Chair: [Paul Butler](#)

FAC Chair Paul Butler thanked the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) members for their hard work and dedication. He mentioned the FAC priorities for 2019 were: Articulation, Advocacy, and Action.

Next, Dr. Butler briefly reported on the activities from this past year and moving forward.

- Faculty Values Statement
 - Expresses a shared set of values & principles that should be observed as faculty members within the university setting.
- Faculty Land Acknowledgment Statement
 - Available as a greeting/welcome for UH events and gatherings. UH is the first university in Texas to adopt a land acknowledgment statement.
 - Many other universities have a land acknowledgment statement.
- System-Wide Faculty Activity Reporting System
 - Explored developing a faculty activity reporting system. This project is currently being vetted by a task force and looking into different vendors.
- Climate Survey
 - The FAC has collaborated with the Faculty Governance Committee (FGC) and FS leadership to produce a faculty climate survey.
- UH Standing Committee, Diversity
 - The FAC along with the Executive Committee (EC) passed a recommendation to create a UH standing committee on diversity.
- FAC Diversity Subcommittee
 - Working on institutional goals on diversity
 - Looking at best practices on diversity at other institutions

- Faculty Affairs Health Insurance Subcommittee
 - Collaborate with UH Human Resources to create FAQs and resources to assist faculty and all UH employees navigate the complicated network of Blue Cross Blue Shield policies and ERS regulations.
- Faculty Affairs Performance Subcommittee
 - Working with budget transparency findings to help determine allocate revenue growth among colleges/units.
- Faculty Affairs Strategic Planning Subcommittee
 - Examining how faculty priorities can be best represented in the strategic planning process:
 - Faculty Vision, Faculty Needs, Faculty Resources, Faculty Cohesion

Dr. Paul Butler mentioned that it has been a great year and the FAC has more work to do next year.

Lastly, Pres. Raúl Ramos informed the Faculty Senate about the following upcoming events:

- The next APeX talk is scheduled on October 23, 2019
- Faculty/Staff Tailgate tomorrow.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.