



**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019  
12:15 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Raúl Ramos called the November 20, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:21 p.m. Dr. Ramos welcomed both the Senators and guests. Since the holidays are drawing near, he took the opportunity to reflect on the American tradition of Thanksgiving in which he touched upon the points of gratitude, home (a sense of belonging), migration/mobility, and building communities.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (67)**

ARCH: M. Kubo, P. Peters  
BUS: S. Basu, D. Currie, M. Murray, J. Porra, Steve Werner  
CLASS: P. Butler, J. Cortina, H. Glass, S. Grigorian, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, K. Kleinheider, E. Goodin-Mayeda, R. Ramos, B. Tamber-Rosenau, S. Scarrow, A. Vujanovic  
  
COTA: F. Fernando, N. Harren, T. Koozin  
EDU: C. Arbona, J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee  
ENGR: L. Grabow, H. Love, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao  
HON: D. Gish, S. Long  
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Draper, D. Christopher Taylor  
LAW: J. Heppard  
LIB: K. Creelman, C. Gola, A. Malone, S. Thompson  
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, V. Lubchenko, J. May, A. Medrano, C. Ratti, N. Rizk, G. Toti, C. Wayne  
OPT: D. Currie, K. Fern, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter, J. Wheat  
PHA: G. Cuny, R. Ghose, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi  
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, H. Hutchins, F. Merchant

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (71)**

ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kimbrough, Z. Qureshi  
BUS: J. Hess, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, O. Miljanic, L. Silva, G. Smith,  
CLASS: E. Aleman, P. Blake, R. Boul, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, S. Craig, M. Dunkelberger, J. Fix, D. Hernandez, L. Maher, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, J. Wingard  
  
CON: C. Brohard, P. Schrader, C. Sharp  
COTA: T. Chapman, J. Mueller, K. Rigdon, R. Valls  
EDU: W. Fan, L. Hutchinson, A. Thompson  
ENGR: J. Chen, P. Cirino, J. Conrad, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, Y. Mo, M. Nikloaou, M. Robertson, S. Shevkopyas  
GCSW: S. Jennings, P. Leung, S. Narendorf  
HRM: J. Madera, C. Morosan  
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundas, A. Michaels  
LIB: N. Dethloff  
NSM: R. Capuano, R. Forrest, B. George, S. Gilbertson, S. Huang, R. Lee, E. Papadakis  
A. Quaini, Z. Ren, J. Sisson, S. Xu  
OPT: V. Das

PHA: D. Chow, T. Hussain  
RES FAC: O. Bannova, S. Chung  
TECH: J. Evans, M. Kidd, G. Zouridakis

**VACANT SEATS:** (5) COTA – 1 seat / LAW – 1 seat / CLASS – 2 seats / GCSW – 1 seat

**VISITORS:** Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost); Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs); Lisa German (Dean, University Libraries), Edward Gloor (University Libraries), Lenora McWilliams (College of Nursing)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting were approved.

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

Pres. Raúl Ramos made an appeal to the senators about Senate leadership. The Faculty Senate is an independent body and it depends on every member's participation. He pointed out that along with Senate service, every member is engaged in the university in different ways and are at different points of a career cycle of an academic. He made a pitch for leadership within the Executive Committee – specifically the president-elect position. Traditionally, the Senate would begin the officer election process during November. This year the officer election process will be launched in December (same as last fall) due to the difficulty of finding nominees. Dr. Ramos encouraged senators that if they're interested in participating in Senate leadership or have questions, to ask him or FGC chair Steve Werner.

**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 Paula Short wished the Faculty Senate and guests the best during the upcoming holidays. She then updated the Senate on the following items:

UH Strategic Planning:

- The planning work group is just getting underway with the planning process.
- The strategic planning process has been branded as "Dare to Dream".
- A website will be created to communicate and track this planning initiative
- Dr. Short plans to engage the Faculty Senate in "Dare to Dream": help assist in getting ideas (i.e., long term goals for the next 5-10 years).
  - The campus community should have ownership of the planning process
- The Dare to Dream committee has been formed and will meet in January.
- Will hold flash groups to get ideas.
- This will be a year-long, grassroots plan with an official plan formulated at the end.

Research Transparency Phase of the Budget Transparency Initiative:

- New updates had been added to the Budget Transparency Initiative website. Dr. Short will send the URL to FS President Ramos & FS President-elect Cortina to share with senators.
- There are two subcommittees formed to address a set of specific questions with regards to revenue & allocation of research funds.

50-in-5:

- Provost Short mentioned that she was amazed with faculty proposals submitted for the Provost 50-in-5 award.

- Due to the impressive quality of the proposals submitted, Dr. Short awarded 49 faculty instead of twenty as originally intended. She said she looks forward to seeing the results from this award and how it helps faculty accomplish their research endeavors.

Pres. Raúl Ramos echoed the grassroots approach of the UH strategic planning committee in developing the strategic plan. There's a conscious effort to make this initiative a collaborative effort in which the whole campus community's input is taken into consideration during the process. The Faculty Senate is a cross-section of the campus faculty (every college is represented). The years of experience and different expertise can bring a richness and perspective to this planning process. Also, this takes UH into another level of engagement and he feels that it will be a enjoyable/positive process to lead UH further into the future.

**Second reading of Proposed Faculty Senate Bylaw Revision and vote presented by Faculty Governance Chair: [Steve Werner](#)**

FGC Chair Steve Werner re-introduced the proposed bylaw change for a second reading. The proposal is to eliminate the clause that requires NTT faculty to have served 3 years at UH before being eligible to run for the Faculty Senate (see excerpt below). He gave the following reasons for the change:

- As currently written, it gets interpreted as meaning just NTTs by some units and as applying to all by other units.
  - We cannot easily enforce this clause and have not been enforcing this clause.
  - We trust the faculty to vote for the most qualified candidate and to adequately mentor new faculty. The responsibility for representation ultimately lies with the voters.
- **Current Language:** An eligible faculty member is a full-time, tenured or 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.
  - **Proposed Revision:** 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.

After inviting questions, Dr. Werner called for a vote on the proposed bylaw revision. The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the bylaw revision as is.

**Presentation of Officer Candidate Slate by Faculty Governance Chair: [Steve Werner](#) (25:39)**

The Faculty Governance Committee met on Wednesday, November 20th, to discuss the slate for the 2020 Faculty Governance Committee. Since the Faculty Senate is transitioning to the academic year, candidates were informed that the transition term of service will be a year and a half.

The following are the candidates for the twelve positions on the Faculty Governance Committee:

- Ferenc Bunta, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- Kerry Creelman, University Libraries
- Medhat El Nahas, Technology
- Romi Ghose, Pharmacy

- Janet Heppard, Law Center
- Kirill Larin, Engineering
- Mimi Lee, Education
- Ruth Manny, Optometry
- Jeremy May, Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- Fatima Merchant, Technology
- Cristian Morosan, Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Chad Wayne, Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- Steve Werner, Business

FGC Chair Steve Werner opened the floor to additional nominations. No further nominations were made. He mentioned that senators will be informed shortly when the election is launched online.

### **Announcements (President Raúl Ramos)**

December 5: Invitation to Faculty holiday party at the Wortham House (“Roaring 20’s” theme).

December 11: Faculty Senate “End-of-the Year” Social at Eric’s Restaurant, 5-7pm.

### **New Business**

A senator brought up the issue of UH’s spring break for 2019 doesn’t coincide with HISD’s spring break calendar. Pres. Ramos said that he has had conversations with the Registrar’s office regarding this issue. UH plans its academic calendar years in advance, while HISD plans the fall semester before the planned spring break.

Dr. Ramos said that the most appropriate way to discuss the spring break calendar is involve the Undergraduate Committee (UC). This group can collaborate with key stake holders. Also it was mentioned that state regulations probably plays a big role in HISD’s decision-making.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETINGS**

The next **Faculty Senate** meeting will be on:

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

**12:15 p.m.**

**Multipurpose Room (Second floor), Student Center South**



### **Spring 2020 Faculty Senate Meetings**

**January 22, 2020**

**February 19, 2020**

**March 25, 2020**

**April 15, 2020**

**May 6, 2020**

**12:15 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion**  
M. D. Anderson Library



The next [APeX Speaker Series](#) event features **Summer Harlow, Ph.D.**, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, on “**From #BlackLivesMatter# to #Ayotzinapa: Rethinking Domestic and Foreign Protest News Coverage on Social Media**” on:

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020**  
**At 12:15 p.m. in room 306, M. D. Anderson Library (Faculty Senate Office)**

Bring a brown bag lunch. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

