



**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
12:15 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina called the February 19, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:17 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (77)**

ARCH: D. Froehlich, P. Peters  
COTA: T. Chapman, F. Fernando, N. Harren, S. Zalman  
COM: K. Rowland  
BUS: S. Basu, M. Murray, J. Porra, S. Werner  
EDU: J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee, A. Thompson  
ENGR: H. Love, D. Shattuck  
GCSW: P. Leung  
HON: S. Long  
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Draper, C. Taylor  
LAW: A. Michaels  
CLASS: E. Aleman, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, M. Dunkelberger, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, R. Ramos, G. San Miguel, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tolliver  
LIB: K. Creelman, C. Gola, S. Thompson  
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, M. Papadakis, A. Quaini, C. Ratti, N. Rizk, J. Sisson, G. Toti  
COM: G. Gomez  
CON: C. Brohard, P. Schrader  
OPT: D. Currie, V. Das, K. Fern, S. Modi, J. Porter, J. Wheat  
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, M. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi  
TECH: M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, M. Kidd, F. Merchant

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (60)**

ARCH: M. Kimbrough, M. Kubo, Z. Qureshi  
BUS: D. Currie, J. Hess, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, O. Miljanic, L. Silva, G. Smith  
COTA: T. Koozin, K. Rigdon  
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, L. Hutchinson  
ENGR: J. Chen, P. Cirino, J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, Y. Mo, M. Nikolaou, M. Robertson, G. Song, Y. Yao  
GCSW: S. Jennings, S. Narendorf  
HON: D. Gish  
HRM: J. Madera, C. Morosan  
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, J. Heppard  
CLASS: R. Boul, S. Craig, J. Fix, K. Hopkins, L. Maher, D. Papell, S. Scarrow, C. Sharp, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic, J. Wingard  
LIB: N. Dethloff  
NSM: R. Capuano, B. George, V. Lubchenko, Z. Ren, C. Wayne, S. Xu  
OPT: L. Frishman, R. Manny  
PHA: R. Ghose

RES FAC: S. Chung  
TECH: B. Detillier, G. Zouridakis

**VACANT SEATS:** (3) COTA – 1 seat (GPSC) / CLASS (HHP) – 1 seat / GCSW – 1 seat /

**VISITORS:** Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs); Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President); Renu Khator (Chancellor/President), Emily Messa (Associate Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice President, Administration & Finance)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting were approved.

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

FS President Jeronimo Cortina reported on the following items:

- Faculty Climate Survey has closed and there was a thirty percent participation rate. The next steps are to: FS leadership analyze the results, draft written report, present to FGC for input, distribute copy of report to administrators who were evaluated in the survey, and present results to the full Senate at the March meeting.
- Off-Cycle Deans Review (ARTS, CLASS, TECH): Dr. Cortina gave a brief explanation of the review process. He then informed the audience that the review is to help deans to improve the climate in their colleges and work on issues their faculty deem important.
- Early voting for the primaries (democratic and republican) has started on campus. Pres. Cortina encouraged senators to vote (Harris County residents only).
- APeX Talk: February 26, 2020, featuring Dr. Sang Byung Seo from the C. T. Bauer College of Business, “Disasters: Do Investors Fear the Possibility of Another Great Depression?” Talk will be held in room 306 M. D. Anderson Library (Faculty Senate office).

Dr. Cortina thanked everyone for attending today’s meeting. He stressed the importance in attendance and participation which makes an impact in shared governance and accountability to faculty constituents.

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

Dr. Khator thanked Dr. Raúl Ramos for his leadership and service as the 2019 Faculty Senate President. She also welcomed the new FS leadership (Drs. Jeronimo Cortina & Vallabh Das) and looks forward to working with them this year.

President Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- College of Medicine: She congratulated the Senate on helping the College of Medicine obtain LCME accreditation. Dr. Khator thanked the senators for their interest and participation in the application process.
- Senator Kirk Watson (former Austin, TX mayor) was hired to become the founding dean of the Hobby School of Public Affairs.
- UH has hired a new internal auditor, Phillip Hurd after Don Guyton (former auditor) retired from UH after 35+ years of service.
- UH100 Dare to Dream: Pres. Khator thanked senators who participated in UH’s strategic planning thus far.
- The Texas governor has said that next legislative session will be a higher education session. Dr. Khator informed the Senate that UH hasn’t set its legislative agenda yet, but will do so soon.
- New THECB Commissioner Harrison Keller visited UH. Dr. Khator wanted to show him that the University of Houston is a major powerhouse (especially with regards to research production). Dr. Keller was impressed with UH’s with the campus and its accomplishments.

- The COVID-19 situation has impacted the UH alumni trip to India. It was postponed to November.
- Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will feature:
  - Remarks by Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina
  - Discussion on setting the tuition for the next two years
  - Cougar Promise Program – covers tuition for students whose families have an income of \$50,000 or less. Will discuss about tweaking the program.
  - UH has established a partnership with Baylor College of Medicine on major clinical trials
- Athletics:
  - UH Men's Basketball (ranked team) has a game tonight against Tulsa. Pres. Khator encouraged senators to attend games and support a young team.
  - XFL Roughnecks are also playing on campus. Having XFL games brings a new revenue stream to UH Athletics.

**Presentation and Discussion by University of Houston System Associate Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Associate Vice President for Administration: [Emily Messa](#)**

Dr. Emily Messa thanked the Faculty Senate for their participation in the various shared governance committees in the Division of Administration & Finance.

She presented the following 2019 highlights and updates from the ten departments and programs in the division of Administration.

- Public Art:
  - In 2019, UHS celebrated 50 years of Public Art collecting (PAUHS)
  - Celebrated UH's first monograph highlighting the top 40 works in the collection
  - Extended an offer to faculty to integrate public art<sup>77</sup> into faculty curriculum
  - Houston Mobius by Marta Chilindrón was the first temporary public art installed on the campus. The next installation is scheduled this fall.
- Copy, Print & Delivery Services
  - Produced 3,589 printing jobs/year
  - The department received "Best in Plant" award and recipient of a number of graphic excellence awards
- Parking & Transportation
  - Opened the 5<sup>th</sup> parking garage and completing the 6<sup>th</sup> parking garage (last garage for a while)
  - COAST program: UH Coogs on Alternative and Sustainable Transportation
    - Met target of 10% participation rate
    - UH COAST partners to help reduce parking demand: Lyft, B-Cycle, Metro, and Zip Car
  - Parking & Transportation Enhancements:
    - Parking guidance system technology in all garages (real-time parking availability)
      - Didn't go over 95% occupancy
    - Student zone parking: maximizes utilization of all student spaces. Students don't have to spend time finding a parking space and they arrive on time to classes.
  - Annual Parking Rates
    - Rate Increase: Parking & Transportation services is completely self-funded
      - Will need to spend more than \$4M to maintain parking facilities and provide shuttle service
        - Manage 55 surface lot spaces, 6 garages, 20 shuttle buses, 3 after-hour shuttle vans.
        - Also, will spend just under \$11M in debt service.
    - Parking Rates for the next two years (recommended by TPAC – Transportation & Parking Advisory Committee)
      - Rates won't increase for faculty/staff garage parking; hold rates flat until student parking rates catch up to faculty/staff rates.
      - FY2021 - 2.4% increase for ungated surface lots; FY2022 – 4.7% increase for ungated

- FY2021 - 5.9% increase for gated surface lots, FY2022 – 6.3% increase for gated
- UH Dining Services
  - Autonomous Starship delivery robots: delivered 2,500 food orders in the first week of service
  - In 2019, 650,000 meals were served in Cougar Woods and Moody Dining Commons (24/7 service).
  - Food Services Advisory Committee recommended adding 28 days of service increase (service over the Thanksgiving, interim, and spring breaks). There was a 13% increase in service. Both facilities are green restaurant-certified and hope to be “zero waste” at end of this year. Dr. Messa encouraged senators to dine in both facilities.
  - The Satellite will be decommissioned at the end of the spring term. A new food hall is scheduled to be completed by fall 2022.
- Cullen Performance Hall
  - In 2019, 89 events were held in the hall. Events ranged from authors, music artists, political figures, dance recitals, etc.
- Cougar Card
  - Continue to roll-out new Cougar Card
- Campus Store
  - Follett is UH's new bookstore partner
- Q&A session followed after the presentation:
  - A senator asked about who made the decision about the parking rate increase. Emily Messa responded that the TPAC – Transportation & Parking Advisory Committee makes recommendations. Any concerns/questions can be forwarded to this group.
  - Senator Hutchins inquired if any of the public art wall wraps are available to put in other buildings for enhancement. Dr. Messa replied that wall prints/wraps are available for installation. Prints are available from UH Copy and Printing Services.
  - Senator Werner commented that the 5-6% parking rate increase is a concern and unacceptable. Emily agreed with him and said we need to work together to come up with creative solutions to stabilize parking rates.
  - Senator Freiberg said that working with data would be useful: see how many cars are relative to the whole university.
  - Senator Papadakis asked whether there was any agreement to charge Athletics for parking games/events) to help offset burden to the UH community (especially with parking rate increases)? Dr. Messa said UH has a robust event program. However, everyone pays into the system, because it's not fair for one department to subsidize another department. The hope is for the revenue from the event program to help offset the burden to community members. Dr. Papadakis asked if Emily remembers the dollar amount from the agreement. She said it was around a few hundred thousand dollars: however, she didn't have the actual numbers in front of her.
  - Senator B. Tamber-Rosenau commented that the garage rates stays flat, but the basic cost to working at UH goes up: it seems unfair. Dr. Messa said she would be happy to bring that concern to TPAC.
  - Senator Medrano asked about when Tandoori Nite will close and will there be other options? Emily told her that the restaurant will close on April 30. Her department is looking for ways to keep this restaurant integrated into the food program.

Dr. Messa said she is welcomes questions and comments. She encouraged senators to email her directly with concerns and questions they may have.

### **New Business**

Senator Manos Papadakis said since UH is going to discuss tuition rates for the next two years, he would like to see if it is possible for Administration & Finance to put together tuition data using NACUBO standards to present to the full Senate. This would be helpful to the Senate and SGA to understand how much of the tuition paid goes directly to student education.

FS President Cortina said he would forward this new business item to the Budget & Facilities Committee chair for consideration.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.