



**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
1:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina called the May 6, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting to order via Microsoft Teams at 1:02 p.m. He welcomed senators and guests and briefly described the protocol for meeting online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (101)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kubo, M. Kimbrough, P. Peters, Z. Qureshi
BUS: D. Currie, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, M. Murray, J. Porra
COTA: T. Chapman, F. Fernando, N. Harren, S. Zalman.
CLASS: W. Breslin, F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, M. Dunkelberger, J. Fix, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, R. Ramos, G. San Miguel, S. Scarrow, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tolliver, A. Vujanovic
COM: K. Rowland.
EDU: C. Arbona, J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, L. Hutchison, M. Lee, A. Thompson.
ENGR: J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, H. Love, M. Nikolaou, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao
GCSW: P. Leung, S. Narendorf
HON: S. Long
HRM: J. Draper, C. Morosan
LAW: J. Heppard, A. Michaels
LIB: K. Creelman, N. Dethloff, C. Gola, S. Thompson
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, R. Capuano, R. Forrest, B. George, S. Gilbertson, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, E. Papadakis, A. Quaini, C. Ratti, N. Rizk, V. Sisson, G. Toti, C. Wayne
CON: C. Brohard, P. Schrader
OPT: V. Das, K. Fern, L. Frishman, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter, J. Wheat
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, R. Ghose, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, M. Kidd, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

MEMBERS ABSENT: (34)

BUS: S. Basu, J. Hess, O. Miljanic, L. Silva, G. Smith, S. Werner
COTA: T. Koozin, K. Rigdon
EDU: W. Fan
ENGR: J. Chen, K. Larin, Y. Mo, M. Robertson
HON: D. Gish
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Madera, D. C. Taylor
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes
CLASS: E. Aleman, R. Boul, S. Craig, D. Papell, C. Sharp, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, J. Wingard
NSM: V. Lubchenko, Z. Ren, S. Xu
COM: G. Gomez
OPT: D. Currie
GCSW: S. Jennings
RES CTRS: S. Chung

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

VISITORS: Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Amr Elnashai (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Research & Technology Transfer), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President), Renu Khator (Chancellor/President), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost & Dean, Undergraduate Student Success & Dean), Lorena Lopez (The Honors College), Jim McShan (Senior Vice Chancellor/Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance), Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs and Provost)

Minutes: The minutes of the April 15, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.

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

Pres. Cortina congratulated the senators on completing the semester. He expressed his confidence that the Senate in conjunction with administration will continue to enhance and redefine the University's mission and goals during the pandemic and the future. Dr. Cortina then gave a brief overview on the following activities of the Faculty Senate:

- Interim Grading Policies
- Interim Course Evaluation Policy
- Remote Check-in Survey
- COVID-19 Taskforces: New Normal, Financial, Reopening, Fall Instructional Delivery
 - The Senate is very involved in each of these taskforces and will help continue this work throughout the summer term.

Dr. Cortina expressed his gratitude to the Senate committees for their hard work and dedication during the spring semester.

Presentation of the 2020 UH Grievance Committee Election Results and Faculty Senator Election Results by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos announced the results of the UH Grievance Committee and Faculty Senate elections.

UH Grievance Committee Election Results:

Tenured/Tenure-Track:

Jeronimo Cortina, CLASS
Jaye Derrick, CLASS
Ognjen Miljanic, NSM
Jaana Porra, BUS

Non-Tenure Track:

Anita Ticak Gostivic, OPT
Catherine Hatfield, PHA
Donald Van Nieuwenhuise, NSM

UH Faculty Senate Election Results:

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

- Adam Noble, THEA/DAN, At-Large
- Timothy Koozin, MUS, UC

C.T. Bauer College of Business

- Charles Becker, MKT/ENTR, GPSC
- Jaana Porra, DISC, RSC

- Michael Murray, UC

Cullen College of Engineering

- Christiana Chang, ME, At-Large
- Steven Pei, ECE, At-Large (2-year term)
- Jacinta Conrad, CHEE, GPSC
- Karolos Grigoriadis, RSC

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management

- Sujata Sirsat, RSC

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

- Kathryn Anderson, SOC, At-Large (college seat)
- Lindita Camaj, COMM, At-Large (college seat)
- Mark Goldberg, HIST, UC
- Michelle Ivey, COMD, UC

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (continued)

- Julia Kleinheider, MCL, UC
- Elizabeth Simas, POLS, UC
- Zhiwen Xiao, COMM, UC

CLASS – Health & Human Performance (Department Seat)

- Mark Knoblauch (2-year term)

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

- Mini Das, PHYS, At-Large (college wide seat) (1-year term)
- Matthew Nicol, MATH, At-Large (college wide seat) (2-year term)
- Anna Vershynina, MATH, GPSC

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics (College Wide)

- T. Randall Lee, CHEM, RSC
- Arkadiusz Czader, CHEM, UC
- Ana Medrano, BIOBCH, UC

College of Nursing

- Lenora McWilliams, At-Large

College of Optometry

- Daniel Coates, GPSC
- Laura Frishman, RSC (2-year term)

College of Pharmacy

- Greg Cuny, GPSC

College of Technology

- Amaury Lendasse, ILT, At-Large

College of Technology

- Bret Detillier, ILT, UC
- Medhat El Nahas, ET, UC

University Libraries

- Kerry Creelman, At-Large
- Veronica Arellano Douglas, UC

The election results will be posted on the Faculty Senate website (fs.uh.edu). FGC Chair Raúl Ramos welcomed the new and re-elected senators to the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Climate Survey 2020 Report by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos thanked Provost Short for helping the Faculty Senate acquire a Qualtrics license. The Senate has been able to use this tool for administering surveys for feedback to inform important decisions and launch elections.

Dr. Ramos gave a brief overview of the Faculty Climate Survey results:

- The Faculty Climate Survey provides a snapshot of where the Faculty Senate stands, where faculty interests lie, and where the Senate can work towards the future.
- The survey was overseen by the Faculty Governance Committee (FGC) and conducted between January 27 through February 7, 2020 (pre-COVID-19 pandemic). 516 faculty responded to the survey out of 1652 invitations that were sent to faculty.
- Process: Data results compiled into a report – reviewed by the FGC – reviewed by the Executive Committee (EC) – EC presented to senior administration – report posted to the Faculty Senate website.
- Survey data results focused on:
 - Faculty issues deemed important – (i.e., increase resources for research)
 - Survey of senior administration performance: reported as generally good
 - Summarized faculty comments
 - The full, detailed survey report is posted on the [Faculty Senate website](#).

After closing the floor to questions, FGC Chair Raúl Ramos formally submitted the survey report to the Faculty Senate.

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

Pres. Khator acknowledged the amazing job that the faculty and staff did to transition instruction and services online. She mentioned that the majority of students were appreciative of the University's efforts during the pandemic. Dr. Khator also thanked the Faculty Senate for doing the climate survey. She encouraged senators to email her for questions or concerns regarding the survey.

Pres. Khator reported on the following items:

- Enrollment
 - Summer enrollment is up: will make up for the shortfall for fall 2020 and spring 2021 enrollment. Possible reasons for the enrollment increase – waiving of mandatory fees, positive student experience at UH, federal stimulus funding; Fall enrollment is too early to comment on: only two orientations were held so far. Dr. Khator gave kudos to faculty and staff who helped made the transition possible.
- Economy
 - Currently there is massive job loss – especially with the addition of the oil crisis.
 - The State has not given any indication on budget distribution: announcement may come in July. Since summer enrollment is good, it may carry all employees through FY2020. Fortunately, UH didn't have to close but rather transition to remote work and online instruction. The state legislature has higher education on the agenda this year, but the budget is currently top priority.
 - There were losses in auxiliary services. UH received \$36 million in federal stimulus funding, plus another \$2.8M because UH is a Hispanic-serving institution. Half of the funds went directly to students (26,000) and the other half to make up for the refunds issued to students (i.e., parking, meal plans, housing, etc.). Next fiscal year will be dependent on the state's response in July.
 - NCAA has relaxed rules (minimum teams institutions need to qualify for 1st division, financial aid, etc.); Dr. Khator hasn't heard of any institutions having to take advantage of the new rules as of yet. She said she would keep the Faculty Senate informed since she's a member of the NCAA board.
- Reopening

- Governor reopened Texas on May 1, 2020. UH opened research labs in the first phase. Mandatory training to return to campus was provided: in the first 24 hours 106 applications were received to return to labs and 3000 individuals took the training.
- Second phase: Will open some units in mid-June (depending on the current situation in the city). Pres. Khator encouraged feedback from senators.

Q&A Session:

Senator Michelle Ivey: Where do clinics fall in the reopening plan? Dr. Khator said that she wasn't sure and asked her what the need is to help her understand. Dr. Ivey explained that her department has a speech language clinic and that graduate clinicians are required to have a certain number of training hours. Currently, the clinic is doing telehealth appointments, but this is not ideal. Dr. Khator said that she will take her concern to the reopening taskforce. Provost Short added that she has a group already working on a set of recommendations for clinics.

Senator Ana Medrano: For fall instruction: is there any assurance that courses/labs will return to "face-to-face" format? Dr. Khator said that Dr. Short's team is working on recommendations and gave examples of different instructional formats (i.e., hybrid, online, etc.). However, UH has a set of guiding principles for reopening: safety first, individuals are comfortable returning, etc. Large face-to-face classes (i.e., 300 student lectures) will not occur.

Senator Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau: Will there be university-level protocols/resources for research labs which involve human participants (i.e., temperature screening, PPE, etc.)? Dr. Khator responded that the College of Medicine has developed a contact tracing program. She's not sure about PPEs - however, VP Elnashai had sent emails regarding research lab protocols. Dr. Tamber-Rosenau mentioned that those particular research lab protocols didn't address labs that involve human participants and is wondering if there will be university-level guidance (which includes IRB protocol compliance). Pres. Khator had made note of the senator's concern and assured him that there will be protocols drafted. Dr. Amr Elnashai commented that currently the state does not allow this type of close interactions. He mentioned that the governor's executive order will reopen certain business (i.e., beauty salons – similar to IRB interactions.) this Friday. As soon as the state reopens these types of businesses, his team will reissue guidelines with help from legal affairs and approval of the president's office.

Senator Stella Grigorian: She asked if UH would benefit from recruiting students who may have been planning to attend college out of state, but may want to stay in Houston? Are students still applying for the fall 2020 term? Dr. Renu Khator replied that students are still applying for the fall semester and the deadline (and other admission processes) have been made flexible. UH wants to attract those students who were planning to go to college out of state.

Senator Kevin Bassler: He expressed his appreciation for Dr. Khator's planning considerations for the reopening the fall semester. He also urged her to incorporate flexibility for the fall 2020 term given the tremendous uncertainty the virus may progress. She agreed with him that flexibility and compassion are the key to this planning.

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 reported on the following items:

- There will be a campus-wide email regarding the faculty excellence award recipients.
- The Promotion & Tenure review process has been completed and Dr. Short has forwarded the recommendations to President Khator. The Board of Regents meeting (BoR) will be held near the end of May in which the final recommendations will be on the agenda for approval.
 - Emeritus faculty recommendations from the colleges will also be on the BoR meeting agenda for approval.
- The taskforce on Fall Instructional Delivery held its first meeting this morning. The group is charged with developing recommendations on flexible, face-to-face options for instructional delivery in the fall. The taskforce will ensure that the set of recommendations are evidence-

based and are being informed by legal guidelines. The group is also looking at social distancing classroom capacity across campus and pedagogy (hybrid courses, online courses, etc.). The target date for the taskforce's set of recommendations is June 1st. The recommendations will be flexible given the uncertainty of the coronavirus.

- UH Strategic Planning is still ongoing and the working group will meet next week. The larger Strategic Planning Committee will meet at the end of the month to focus on the key themes from the listening groups and all the analysis that have been done. This group will develop key priorities of the strategic plan for the next five years. By fall 2020, the committee will bring materials to various campus groups for feedback and finalize the strategic plan by December. Dr. Short said the rollout of the plan is targeted for January 2021.

Q&A Session:

Senator Natilee Harren: She requested that the UH Reopening Taskforce prioritize reopening the Children's Learning Center which is an essential service for faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Short thanked the senator for her request and made note of it.

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](#)

Sr. VP Jim McShan complimented the faculty on their flexibility and responsiveness regarding the online transition during the pandemic. He briefly reported on the following items:

- Depending on fall enrollment, parking and housing may not meet full capacity and may affect operations. His division is dealing with this separately - away from the central fund allocation and discussing different scenarios in preparations for the upcoming fall semester.
- Summer enrollment numbers are looking great and UH generally is optimistic for the fall term.
- Currently the biggest unknown is state funding. However, the taskforce is doing everything they can to prepare for possible different scenarios (with flexibility and compassion) that may occur.

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

VP Amr Elnashai reported on the following items:

- DoR operations continue to operate at 100%. Internal collaborations and communications are working very well. Communications between DoR and the campus are also good.
- Currently, DoR's main effort is to manage the reopening of research labs. There are more than 160 requests to open labs and they have been approved (also 1,100 individuals have been approved).
- UHS Reopening Taskforce: co-chaired by UH VP of DoR & TT Amr Elnashai and UHV President Robert Glenn
There are two groups: UH reopen group and UHS group. Each group meets once a week.
 - UH reopening group met yesterday and found that a significant number of faculty requested to return to campus who do not have research activity or have research activity that be done remotely. Dr. Elnashai said that these requests may imply a return to campus and not a reopening of research labs as intended. A return to campus requires a different type of planning (i.e., building management, cleaning, etc.). The group is in communication with the college deans and associate deans of research to emphasize what information was included in the forms that were sent out.
 - UH is entering Phase 2: Taskforce is looking at what additional services are needed to support future reopening. VP Elnashai has requested from UH vice presidents a list of facilities that they need for reopening (from June 1 to mid-June).
 - So far 4500 employees have done the mandatory training. 1100 employees have been approved to return to campus.

Q&A Session:

Senator Hildegard Glass: Has the Reopening Taskforce has the opportunity to think about faculty who need access to library materials for research – has limited access been considered? Dr. Elnashai replied that he and the taskforce did consider this option and the advice to the deans is for faculty to check out the materials needed at the library and leave (also access to online library materials is another option). He stressed that employee safety and working within the legal framework is very important aspect in campus accessibility. He did mention the faculty's desire to continue research despite the challenges of the pandemic is admirable, but there needs to be a balance. If faculty need to access research materials on campus, they need to arrange a schedule with their associate dean for research, pick up what is needed, and leave campus.

Senator Yan Yao: He mentioned that there are visiting professors and students who need access to labs and there are no training modules for them since they don't have a UH Access account. Is there a way for this community to get access to the campus? Dr. Elnashai responded that this issue had been resolved already and communicated campus-wide. Also, this information is posted on the DoR website. Individuals not on UH payroll, POIs (Person of Interest) can access training module on their TAP website (process set up by HR).

Senator Christina Gola: She commented that the libraries are treating library spaces the same as laboratory spaces (i.e., library employees must take the training, etc.). There is concern about staff handling the physical materials and use of PPE: the library is looking at different types of mediated services.

Senator Caryn Tamber-Rosenau: She asked if delivery of books have been considered (one of the possible mediated services)? Dr. Cortina replied that Senator Gola can take note of this question and bring it back to her team for discussion.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.