



**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Wednesday, August 12, 2020  
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina called the August 12, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting to order via Microsoft Teams at 12:01 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (93)**

ARCH: M. Kubo, M. Kimbrough, P. Peters, Z. Qureshi  
BUS: C. Becker, M. Murray, J. Porra, L. Silva, G. Smith, S. Werner  
COTA: T. Chapman, F. Fernando, N. Harren, T. Koozin, S. Zalman.  
CLASS: E. Alemán, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, S. Craig, J. Fix, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, L. Maher, R. Ramos, S. Scarrow, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, A. Vujanovic  
COM: G. Gomez, K. Rowland  
EDU: C. Arbona, J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, L. Hutchison, M. Lee, A. Thompson  
ENGR: J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, H. Love, Y. Mo, M. Nikolaou, D. Shattuck, G. Song  
HON: D. Gish, S. Long  
HRM: J. Draper, C. Morosan  
LAW: J. Heppard  
LIB: K. Creelman, C. Gola, S. Thompson  
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, R. Capuano, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, S. Huang, R. Lee  
J. May, A. Medrano, E. Papadakis, A. Quaini, Z. Ren, N. Rizk, V. Sisson, G. Toti, C. Wayne  
CON: C. Brohard, P. Schrader  
OPT: V. Das, L. Frishman, R. Manny, J. Porter, J. Wheat  
PHA: D. Chow, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi  
RES CTRS: S. Chung  
  
GCSW: P. Leung, S. Narendorf  
TECH: M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, M. Kidd, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (41)**

ARCH: M. Kubo  
BUS: S. Basu, J. Hess, O. Miljanic, N. Johnson, P. Kumar,  
COTA: K. Rigdon  
EDU: W. Fan, K. Hassett  
ENGR: J. Chen, K. Larin, M. Robertson, Y. Yao  
HRM: J. Bowen, J. Madera, C. Taylor  
LAW: B. Evans, D. Fagundes, A. Michaels  
LIB: N. Dethloff  
CLASS: R. Boul, M. Dunkelberger, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Sharp, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmuller, C. Tolliver, J. Wingard  
NSM: V. Lubchenko, C. Ratti, S. Xu  
OPT: D. Currie, K. Fern, S. Modi  
PHA: G. Cuny, R. Ghose  
RES FAC: O. Bannova

GCSW: S. Jennings  
TECH: B. Detillier

**VACANT SEATS:** (12) COTA – 2 seats (GPSC); BUS – 2 seats (UC); HRM – 2 seats (GPSC/UC); LAW – 2 seats (GPSC); COM – 1 seat (GPSC); GCSW – 3 seats (At-large/GPSC);

**VISITORS:** Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Amr Elnashai (Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Research & Technology Transfer), Lisa Holdeman (VC/VP, Univ. Marketing & Communications), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President), Renu Khator (Chancellor/President), Sarah Larsen (Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost & Dean, Undergraduate Student Success & Dean), Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June 17, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.

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

- **Welcome to incoming chairs and thank you from outgoing chairs**
  - Pres. Cortina thanked the committees for their hard work this past year. He especially thanked the outgoing chairs: Fleurette Fernando (CGRC), George Zouridakis (GPSC), Randy Lee (RSC), and Martha Dunkelberger (UC) for their leadership and invited them to say a few words.
  - Dr. Cortina welcomed the incoming committee chairs: Susie Gronseth (CGRC), Jason Porter (GPSC), Carla Sharp, and David Shattuck (UC) and gave them the floor to introduce themselves.
  
- **Fall 2020 Term**
  - Pres. Cortina thanked the senators for all the time and effort during the past year: especially during the pandemic.
  - Instructional Delivery Implementation Work Group:
    - Collaborated with faculty and administration
    - Class schedule was re-engineered (collaboration with OUR & college schedulers)
  - UH IT has created a 2-factor authentication program to help keep data safe; also equipment & other technology needs have been installed in Hyflex classrooms.
  - Policies:
    - Excused absence policy and the interim grading policy were approved.
  - FED Resources (in collaboration with faculty):
    - Best practices for online teaching (i.e., videos, etc.) are available
    - Urged senators to be ready and to be flexible and compassionate
  - Human Resources:
    - HR has published guidelines regarding remote work and flexibility
  - UH COVID-19 Website:
    - Contains helpful up-to-date information
  - The Provost office in collaboration with the Faculty Senate is working on standard language to include in syllabi.
  - President Khator Email Communication (“What-if” scenario email):
    - The main priority of the administration is to secure health of campus community
    - UH has a COVID-19 Response Coordinator
    - UH also has its own contact tracers (collaboration with the College of Medicine)
    - Administration is in constant contact with local and state authorities and various agencies
  - Survey:
    - The Faculty Senate will conduct a faculty check-in survey a few weeks into the fall semester
  - Child Care Initiative: collaborating with SGA and Staff Council on child care concerns during the pandemic

Q& A Session:

Senator Holly Hutchins asked when to expect the standard language to include in syllabi? Pres. Cortina responded that the Instructional Delivery Implementation Work Group is finalizing the draft and will be forwarded to the Provost for approval. The language should be ready to be distributed to faculty very soon.

Senator Teresa Chapman asked if the undergraduate attendance policy override a department's absence policy? Dr. Jeronimo Cortina responded that the excused absence policy is a university-level policy that supersedes department's policy to a certain extent. However, this new policy offers flexibility for departments/colleges to implement certain requirements depending on the program. He referred Sen. Chapman to Provost Short to give a more concrete response.

- **Resolution to rename Calhoun Road**

UH Law Center drafted a resolution to rename Calhoun Road. Secretary Susie Gronseth read aloud the resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO RENAME CALHOUN ROAD TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD**

**WHEREAS** we, the Senators of the University of Houston Faculty Senate; and

**WHEREAS** Calhoun Road is the main thoroughfare that runs along the eastern portion of the University of Houston campus through Houston's Greater Third Ward Neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS** Calhoun Road was named in recognition of John C. Calhoun, a South Carolina Congressman, U.S. Senator from South Carolina, U.S. Secretary of State, and U. S. Vice-President; and

**WHEREAS** John C. Calhoun was a staunch defender of the institution of slavery, a slave owner, and widely known to have described slavery as a "positive good;" and

**WHEREAS** John C. Calhoun's only connection to the state of Texas and Houston is that while U.S. Secretary of State, Calhoun advocated for and participated in the final stages of the Texas Annexation Treaty negotiations, motivated by his desire to add another slave-holding state to the Union; and

**WHEREAS** the continuation of the name "Calhoun Road" is a constant and unwelcome reminder of the racism, violence, and morally reprehensible history of slavery in this country; and

**WHEREAS** a portion of the road continuing to Calhoun Road has already been renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to wit "Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard;"

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the undersigned hereby respectfully request and petition that the name of Calhoun Road running from the northernmost segment of Calhoun Road north of Wheeler Avenue running by the University of Houston Law Center to Spur 5 be changed;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the undersigned hereby respectfully request and petition that the referenced portion of Calhoun Road also be renamed in honor of the Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the undersigned believe it is appropriate to rename the referenced portion of Calhoun Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, as doing so will logically extend Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard north of Wheeler Avenue by the University of Houston campus to Spur 5;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** renaming the referenced portion of Calhoun Road to “Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard” would allow the University of Houston community to honor the legacy of Dr. King, who fought to end racial inequality and systematic oppression in our country.

Pres. Jeronimo Cortina opened the floor for discussion. A few concerns were raised during the discussion:

- Why does the resolution apply only to rename only a part of Calhoun Road and not the whole road? (Sen. Kelly Hopkins)
- This resolution should include the greater community into the conversation (i.e., students, Third Ward community, etc.).
- The Honors College was in the process of working on a parallel initiative (student-driven) in May and wasn't aware of the Law Center's resolution until it was circulated to the deans. Would like this initiative to be a teaching moment for students. (Sen. Dustin Gish)
- Pres. Cortina mentioned that the streets are public property and owned by the City of Houston. The UH Campus & Facilities Planning Committee which has Senate representation also has a similar initiative to change the name of streets that affect UH. This is a complex task and the plan is to extend this plan to the campus community.
- It was suggested to rename streets with local historic icons (i.e., Booker T. Washington). (Sen. Steven Craig)
- Supporting the resolution doesn't take away from the broader, future purpose (Sen. Vallabh Das)

After discussion, it was decided to:

- 1) Vote on the UH Law Center resolution as presented today (Faculty Senate offering its support)
- 2) CGRC (along with the Honors College) will draft a separate resolution giving general support to continue the renaming of the rest of Calhoun Rd. and take into consideration social justice issues when renaming streets across the campus. Senator Dustin Gish offered to draft something with regards to the Honors College initiative and the broader University community.

A motion was brought forth to vote on the UH Law Center resolution as presented in the Faculty Senate by Secretary Susie Gronseth.

Senators voted via a voting link provide by Dr. Susie Gronseth in the meeting Teams chat and onscreen for senators participating as a guest.

The motion carried with **79 in favor**, 2 opposed, and 9 abstained.

### **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 Short complimented on how well the Faculty Senate operates and praised the organization on the great job they do.

- Hyflex Classroom website:
  - Faculty can check on their classroom online (i.e., get a status report, etc.)
  - It's still a work in progress
  - Request equipment training
  - There are links to classroom pictures
- Fall 2020 Instruction:
  - UH is overwhelming online for instruction this fall term.
  - Faculty was given a choice of instructional mode preference as much as possible.
  - UH gave students flexibility in choosing their re-engineered class schedule as much as possible.
  - Provost Short stressed to faculty that they check their Hyflex classroom before classes begin.
- Syllabi Language:

- The Faculty Senate has been working with Academic Affairs' Instructional Delivery Taskforce to craft standard language that would be template for faculty syllabi. Also, the group is working with the office of the Gen. Counsel to ensure the language is defensible.
- Standard language: grading policies, excused absence policy, expectation for video camera use, dissemination of class recordings, screen shots, etc.
- Finalizing the standard language and should be available soon.

Provost Paula Short thanked the faculty for their work and feels that UH has the best faculty. She also thanked the faculty who designed the Power Up FED training (listed on the website).

Q&A Session:

Senator Rebecca Forrest thanked Provost Short, President's office, and UH IT for all the communications to the campus community. She is proud of UH's communication.

Senator Ana Medrano asked when are faculty getting the syllabi language. Provost Short replied that it is being finalized and will be forwarded to her for approval. She will make it a priority and hopes to distribute to faculty by the end of this week.

Senator Teresa Chapman asked if the undergraduate absence policy supersedes department policy. Provost Short responded that the policy provides maximum flexibility for the department to build on its requirements so it doesn't conflict with the overarching university absence policy.

**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:

- UH Research Enterprise is doing well
  - There hasn't been a reduction in the number of proposals submitted so far
    - DoR tracks the amount of proposals submitted, money requested, proposals (and money) approved; it takes about 90 days for expenditures to be confirmed and approved.
- Research:
  - DoR will take a deeper dive into federal research agency portfolios
  - McAllister & Quinn and partners in Washington D.C. will work with DoR on medium to long-term priorities for federal agencies (next 5-10 years)
    - Project Scope:
      - Phase 1 – focuses on competencies and core facilities; Consultants came up with 6 criteria for choosing topics; Dr. Elnashai named the prominent four topics.
        1. There has already been a significant appropriation of funds by Congress
        2. Bipartisan support
        3. Minimum 5 federal agencies invested in these topics
        4. National strategy document
      - Five competencies: quantum science, AI, advanced computing, advanced materials, and advanced manufacturing; There are billions of funds earmarked for these five competencies.
      - DoR and McAllister & Quinn performed a study and then came up with proposal that was presented to Pres. Khator in February.
      - Phase 2 – DoR asked McAllister & Quinn to come up with societal drivers to align with the five competencies. The set of 67-slides were produced.
      - The presentation was then condensed to 16 slides to present tomorrow to Pres. Khator, Chief Energy Officer Krishnamoorti, and Provost Short.
        1. The condensed slides addressed how the five competencies will align with UH's thrusts and Aspire Institutes.

- Technology & Transfer: New Strategy
  - Restructured the Technology Bridge:
    - Technology Commercialization
      - 100 licensed IPs
    - Industry partnerships
      - Institutional stream needed
    - Start-ups development
      - Wants UH to be the “go-to” place for start-ups

Q&A Session:

Senator Bernhard Bodmann asked if there is an element of peer review for IP patent discovery? VP Amr Elnashai replied there is a committee to review IP patents and they have a very rigorous process.

### **Adjournment**

The Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.