



**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina called the December 9, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting to order via Microsoft Teams at 12:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (132)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kubo, P. Peters, Z. Qureshi
ARTS: N. Harren, T. Koozin, C. Meals, S. Zalman
BUS: C. Becker, N. Celly, J. Hess, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin, L. Silva, S. Werner
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, L. Hutchison, M. Lee, A. Thompson
ENGR: C. Chang, J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, H. Love, B. Metrovich, Y. Mo, S. Pei, M. Robertson, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao
HON: D. Gish, S. Long
HRM: J. Draper, Y. Koh, J. Madera, C. Morosan, Sujata Sirsat, C. Taylor
HSPA: D. Engster
LAW: K. Brem, J. Heppard, J. Nelson
CLASS: E. Alemán, K. Anderson, R. Boul, F. Bunta, P. Butler, L. Camaj, J. Cortina, M. Dunkelberger, M. Goldberg, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, L. Maher, R. Ramos, G. San Miguel, S. Scarrow, C. Sharp, E. Simas, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tolliver, A. Vujanovic, Z. Xiao
LIB: K. Creelman, V. Douglas, C. Gola, S. Thompson, A. Wu
COM: G. Gomez, K. Rowland
NSM: K. Bassler, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, R. Capuano, A. Czader, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, R. Lee, V. Lubchenko, J. May, A. Medrano, M. Nicol, E. Papadakis, Z. Ren, N. Rizk, V. Sisson, G. Toti, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne, S. Xu
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams
OPT: D. Coates, V. Das, K. Fern, L. Frishman, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, R. Ghose, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
GCSW: S. Jennings, S. Narendorf
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, M. Kidd, A. Lendasse, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

MEMBERS ABSENT: (13)

ARTS: F. Fernando, K. Rigdon
EDU: J. Freiberg
LAW: D. Fagundes
CLASS: S. Craig, H. Glass, L. Olivera, D. Papell
COM: K. Jones
NSM: M. Das, S. Huang, A. Quaini
RES CTRS: S. Chung

VACANT SEATS: (5) COTA – 1 seat (GPSC), 1 seat (UC); OPT – 1 seat (At-large); GCSW – 2 seats (At-large);

VISITORS: Danesha Allen (Staff Council President-elect), Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Wynne Chin (Professor, C.T. Bauer College of Business), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Maria Gatzambide (Public Art UHS Director & Chief Curator), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Administration & Finance), Lisa Holdeman (VC/VP, University Marketing & Communication), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor/President), Renu Khator (Chancellor/President), Brooke Kaiser (Prog. Mgr., Public Art), Sarah Larsen (Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost & Dean, Undergraduate Affairs), Rebecca Lowicki (Director, Int. Communication, ADMIN/FINA), Emily Messa (AVC/AVP for Administration), Ceaser Moore (AVC for Police Operations & UH Chief of Police), Markena Pharr (Admin. Asst., Police Dept.), Mike Rosen (AVC/AVP, Univ. Strategic Communications), Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost)

Minutes: The minutes of the November 18, 2020 Fall Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.

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

FS Pres. Jeronimo Cortina welcomed the senators and thanked them for their dedicated service. He also acknowledged and gave kudos to senior administration for their collaboration with the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Cortina informed the Senate that work on the UH Strategic Plan will continue with the implementation groups meeting in spring 2021. He wished everyone a great holiday.

Announcement of Fall 2020 Special Election Results by the Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

At-Large

Annie Wu, University Libraries

Graduate & Professional Studies Committee (GPSC)

George Chow, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture & Design

Cory Meals, Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Yoon Koh, Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management

Kathrine Brem, The UH Law Center

James Nelson, The UH Law Center

Kathleen Jones, College of Medicine

Undergraduate Committee (UC)

Nikhil Celly, C. T. Bauer College of Business

Funda Sahin, C T. Bauer College of Business

Chris Taylor, Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos welcomed the newest senators and said that the Senate looks forward to their participation.

Second reading and vote of proposed Faculty Senate Bylaw Revision by the Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos presented the second reading of the proposed bylaw amendment.

Faculty Senate Constitution Proposal:

- Revision to add language to the qualifications for senate leadership.
- Currently deans and administration cannot serve as senators, though associate/assistant deans can.
- In order to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, the FGC proposes to limit associate/assistant deans from holding the president or president-elect office in the senate.

Current Faculty Senate Constitution:

- *Article Two--Officers*
- *Section One--The Senate shall have a president, a president-elect, and a secretary. The duties of these officers may be provided for in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for other officers.*

Proposed Revision:

- Article Two--Officers
- Section One--The Senate shall have a president, a president-elect, and a secretary. The duties of these officers may be provided for in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for other officers. **The president or president-elect shall not serve while holding the position of associate/assistant dean.**

Q&A Session:

Senator George Zouridakis asked that if a senator wants to run for the officer position, they must first quit the dean position or they can run for the officer position and then quit the dean position if they win. Dr. Ramos responded that the proposed language states that a senator can't serve both positions once they begin serving as president or president-elect. The key word "while" was added to make the language clearer.

FGC Chair Ramos announced that that the vote for the bylaw revision will take place electronically. Senators can expect to receive an electronic ballot after the Senate meeting and the deadline to submit votes will be the end of the business day (December 9).

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

Pres. Renu Khator thanked the senators for their dedication to service. She gave extra special thanks to Drs. Cortina and Das for their extraordinary and positive leadership during the pandemic.

Pres. Khator reported on the following items:

- Fall 2020 Graduation:
 - Graduating 11,061 students
 - Youngest graduate is 17 years old and the oldest graduate is 80 years old
- COVID-19 Pandemic and Spring 2021 Semester:
 - Houston is seeing a spike in cases

- 18% of spring classes will be taught face-to-face; Around 25-28% of students registered for face-to-face classes
- There will be a free COVID-19 testing site on campus (for students, faculty, & staff only).
- Campus cleaning protocols are in place; Thus far, no outbreaks on campus.
- Plan A and Plan B are ready
- December 3, 2020 Board of Regents (BoR) Meeting:
 - BoR enthusiastically supported the UH Strategic Plan
- UH Budget Agenda for State Legislature Consideration
 - State funding for college of medicine (second half)
 - Research Funds (TRIP, GURI, NRUF, etc.)
 - Fund a study to determine economic impact of having a top 50 public university in Houston
 - Carbon Management Hub
 - Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs)
 - IDEA Lab – makerspace
 - TMC3

Q&A Session:

Senator George Zouridakis asked what kind of COVID-19 test will be offered on campus. Dr. Khator responded that it will be a PCR test in which results will be available within 24 hours.

Senator Rebecca Forrest asked if vaccines will be available on campus. Dr. Khator replied that UH is not included in the first round of vaccines. The second round of vaccines includes the school systems in which UH is part of that distribution.

Senator Anna Vershynina asked about the study of the impact of the implementation of the strategic plan and but couldn't find any justification of the goals (e.g., why UH is aiming for top 50 rather than top 10?). Dr. Khator responded that the study is so that UH can receive state funding (student success) no matter what UH strategic plan is. She encouraged Sen. Vershynina to submit her feedback in the strategic plan feedback website. Sen. Vershynina asked about the cost to implement and sustain the UH strategic plan. Dr. Khator replied it will cost millions of the dollars, but that UH needs to plan step by step taking to account possible state budget cuts, etc. and making funding adjustments along the way.

Senator Giulia Toti thanked Pres. Khator for helping establish free on-campus COVID-19 testing. She asked if there will be a cap on how many times an individual can take the test. Dr. Khator replied that there is no limit on how many times someone can take the test. More details will be forthcoming.

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 expressed her gratitude to the Faculty Senate for their extraordinary service throughout the on-going pandemic.

Provost Paula Short reported on the following items:

- UH Strategic Plan:
 - Categorized & analyzed the website feedback with the implementation team.
 - Implementation Team has working groups for each of the goals (with 2 co-chairs).
 - Dr. Short mentioned that there will be opportunities for senators to offer their help/expertise in January.
 - Arrival of goals came from thoughtful dialogue and analyzing data
- FED Activity:
 - Winter-Write-a-thon: Sessions will provide informal and collegial support
- Establishing ASPIRE Institute on Global Engagement
 - Searching for a new executive director

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance: [Raymond Bartlett](#)

SVP Raymond Bartlett reported on the following items:

- On-campus Testing site:
 - Senator Amaury Lendasse asked via the chat if there would be a testing site at the Sugar Land campus. Mr. Bartlett responded that he didn't know and would follow-up on this question.
 - Communications will be sent to the campus community before the winter break about staying safe and will encourage everyone to get tested before returning to campus.
 - It takes about 30 days for the testing company to get set up on campus after UH signs the contract.
 - Turnaround time to receive PCR test results is 24-48 hours.
- Facilities:
 - Capital projects – all projects are running on schedule (i.e., new Law Center bldg., 2nd tower of the UH Hilton, new College of Medicine bldg.)
 - Phase 2 of Lab Renovation Project has begun:
 - Taskforce members are working on a questionnaire to obtain input and data from stakeholders. The goal is to create a comprehensive policy regarding lab renovations. Completion of phase 2 is targeted for March 2021.
 - Raymond Bartlett thanked everyone who participated as a stakeholder and a taskforce member.

UHPD Update and Discussion with the University of Houston System Associate Vice Chancellor for Police Operations & University of Houston Chief of Police: [Ceaser Moore](#)

Chief Ceaser Moore updated the Faculty Senate on the following items:

- COVID-19:
 - Chief Moore mentioned that there are free COVID-19 testing sites throughout Houston
 - Minute Maid Park testing site is closest to UH
 - UH has a robust contact tracing program
 - UHPD is trained in contact tracing
- Campus Lighting Project
 - A study was done to measure lighting levels on campus
 - Identified industry lighting standards
 - Currently in the process of making lighting standards uniform across campus
- UHPD was recognized by Security Magazine as one of the best police agencies in the nation and only Texas public university to be recognized by the publication. Also, UHPD was recognized by the Safe Campus Summit as the 14th safest university campus in the nation.
- UH Safety & Security Committee
 - Meets monthly
 - Chief Moore encouraged senators to bring their safety concerns to this committee.

SVP Raymond Bartlett thanked Chief Ceaser Moore for updating the Faculty Senate. He mentioned that the safety of student, faculty, staff, and visitors at UH is paramount.

Senator Bret Detillier requested tighter coordination between UHPD and the Provost Office (identifying buildings where evening classes are held) with regards to larger police presence in the area when evening classes let out. Chief Moore said he would contact the Provost Office and respond accordingly.

Color Field Presentation by Public Art UHS Director & Chief Curator [María C. Gaztambide](#)

Color Field is the largest outdoor sculpture exhibition to be presented in Houston and the first sculpture to be installed at the University of Houston.

- Partnership with Crystal Bridges of American Art

- Opened in October 28, 2020
- Large-scale sculptures by 7 artists
- The exhibition is located in:
- UH Arts District (Wilhelmina's Grove), E. Cullen, Butler Plaza, and Lynn Eusan Park.
- Dr. Gaztambide gave a brief history of the principles of Color Field painting that are incorporated into the sculpture exhibition. She also presented some of the sculptures and the unique exhibition features that help inform visitors and also capture their feedback.
- UHS Public Art has planned robust programs from October 2020 – May 2021
 - Color Talks
 - Arts Sheets
 - Monthly Public Art Studio
 - Monthly Student Arts Walks
 - Monthly Curatorial Deep Dives
- Dr. Gaztambide challenged senators to incorporate UHS Public art works into their teaching.

Q&A Session:

Senator Anna Vershynina asked if Color Fields is a permanent exhibition. Dr. Gaztambide responded that it's only a temporary art installation and will be on campus until May 2021.

Senate Committee Chair Updates:

➤ Graduate & Professional Studies Committee Chair: Jason Porter

GPSC Chair Jason Porter updated the Senate on the following items:

- GPSC Vice Chair is Consuelo Arbona
- Current GPSC membership
- GPSC Responsibilities
 - "Advising the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School [Dr. Sarah Larsen] regarding graduate and professional programs at the University of Houston.
 - Recommending changes in existing policies or suggesting the need for new ones, Approving new programs, and
 - Approving new courses, course changes and/or deletions for submission to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board"
- GPSC Subcommittees and their responsibilities
 - Academic Program Evaluation – Dr. Ruth Bush, Chair
 - Graduate Admissions – Dr. Laura Frishman, Chair
 - Graduate Policies – Dr. Anne Delcour Chair
 - Graduate Student Affairs – Dr. Greg Cuny, Chair
- GPSC Activities
 - 2019-20: Approved 49 academic proposals, 245 course proposals
 - Reviewed and approved several pandemic-related policies
 - Interim graduate grading policy
 - Excused absence policy
 - Temporary suspension of GRE/GMAT for admissions
 - – Implementation of Duolingo for English Language proficiency
 - 2020-pres: Approved 17 academic proposals, 73 course proposals
 - Helping to judge 3-Minute Thesis competition presentations
 - Typically review 100+ Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant applications per year

- Working with the UC to streamline the submission and review processes of proposals for accelerated programs

Dr. Jason Porter thanked the GPSC members, Dean Larsen and her Graduate School for their hard work and support.

➤ **Research & Scholarship Committee Chair: Carla Sharp**

RSC Chair Carla Sharp updated the Senate on the following items:

- RSC Vice Chair is Karolos Grigoriadis
- RSC Goals and Responsibilities
 - Functions as the faculty governance body that assists the University administration, most specifically the Division of Research, on matters pertaining to research development
 - Manage/oversee the internal research grants programs
 - Administer the Faculty Research Excellence Awards
 - Make specific recommendations to the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer that promote the enhancement and development of research activities
- Internal Award for Fiscal Year 2021
 - Small Grants (\$90,000)
 - New Faculty Research (\$150,000)
 - GEAR (\$250,000)
 - Excellence in Research and Scholarship (\$50,000)
 - Equipment (\$1.5M)
 - Bridge Funding (\$300,000)
 - National Centers Planning (\$1M)
 - Chancellor's Technology Bridging Fund (\$400,000)
 - Seed Research Funds (\$420,000)
 - Lab Renovation Grants (\$2.5M)
 - **Faculty Programs Total: \$6,660,000**
- Proposals Submitted/Funded (last year)
 - Small Grant 21/35
 - New Faculty 21/35
 - Equipment 12/35 (7 large, 5 small)
 - Lab Renovation 3/8
 - Excellence 6/34
 - GEAR Full 7/25 (32 slots)
 - Seed 7/16
 - COVID 16/55 (10 small, 6 large)
 - Racism 17/28 (9 small, 8 large)
- Other RSC Activities
 - Centers and Institutes
 - Open Access Initiative
 - Animal Research
 - Intellectual Property
 - Research data and management
- Current RSC members and subcommittees
 - Centers & Institutes, Dr. Lars Grabow, Chair
 - Animal Research, Dr. Sanghyuk Chung, Chair
 - Resources & Core Facilities, Dr. Bernard Bodmann, Chair
 - Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creativity, Dr. Holly Hutchins, Chair
 - GEAR, Dr. Karolos Grigoriadis, Chair
 - SEED, Dr. Gangbing Song, Chair
 - New Faculty Awards/Small Grants, Dr. Sarah Narendorf, Chair

- Bridge Funding, Dr. Scott Gilbertson, Chair
- Open Access Publication, Mr. Santi Thompson, Chair
- Intellectual Property, Prof. Dave Fagundes, Chair
- Research Data Management, Mr. Santi Thompson, Chair
- New Initiatives
 - Course Cover Proposal – To further support faculty who don't rely external grant mechanisms to reduce teaching load
 - Senator Holly Hutchins is leading the work on increasing diversity of candidates who apply for the Excellence in Research & Creativity award.

New Business

Senator Manos Papadakis requested a breakdown of NCAA scholarship reporting from the last three years at UH. He wants to see how much of the funding goes to scholarships and to operations. Sen. Papadakis stressed it is important to see how much unnecessary funds can be trimmed from Athletics. He also mentioned that he would like to have the Office of Administration & Finance collaborate with the Senate on this issue.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



Spring/Summer 2021 Faculty Senate Meetings

January 20, 2021
 February 17, 2021
 March 24, 2021
 April 14, 2021 (Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting)
 May 12, 2021
 June 16, 2021 (if called)
 July 21, 2021 (if called)

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams



The next [APeX Speaker Series](#) event features **Virmarie Correa-Fernandez, Ph.D.**, College of Education, on “**Addressing tobacco-related health disparities among Latinx adults: Community engagement and intervention research**” on:

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
At 12:15 p.m. via [Microsoft Teams](#)

