



**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina called the March 24, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting to order via Microsoft Teams at 12:02 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (106)**

ARCH: G. Chow, D. Froehlich, M. Kubo, P. Peters, Z. Qureshi  
ARTS: F. Fernando, T. Koozin, S. Matijcio, C. Meals, S. Zalman  
BUS: C. Becker, J. Hess, N. Johnson, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin, L. Silva  
EDU: S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, L. Hutchison, M. Lee, A. Thompson  
ENGR: C. Chang, J. Conrad, H. Love, B. Metrovich, Y. Mo, 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. Nelson  
CLASS: E. Alemán, K. Anderson, F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, H. Glass, M. Goldberg, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, R. Ramos, S. Scarrow, C. Sharp, E. Simas, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, Z. Xiao  
LIB: K. Creelman, V. Douglas, C. Gola, S. Thompson, A. Wu  
COM: G. Gomez, K. Jones, K. Rowland  
NSM: B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, R. Capuano, A. Czader, R. Forrest, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, M. Nicol, M. Papadakis, N. Rizk, V. Sisson, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne  
CON: L. McWilliams, P. Schrader  
OPT: D. Coates, V. Das, L. Frishman, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter  
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi  
GCSW: S. Narendorf  
RES CTRS: S. Chung  
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Hutchins, M. Kidd, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (38)**

BUS: N. Celly, P. Kumar, S. Werner  
ARTS: N. Harren, T. Morgulis, K. Rigdon  
EDU: C. Arbona, W. Fan, J. Freiberg  
ENGR: L. Grabow, K. Larin, S. Pei  
HSPA: D. Engster  
LAW: D. Fagundes  
CLASS: R. Boul, S. Craig, L. Maher, L. Oliveira, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, Jr., C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, C. Tolliver  
NSM: K. Bassler, M. Das, S. Gilbertson, S. Huang, V. Lubchenko, M. Papadakis, S. Xu  
RES CTRS: S. Chung

RES FAC: O. Bannova  
GCSW: S. Jennings  
TECH: A. Lendasse

**VACANT SEATS: (10)** COTA – 1 seat (GPSC); BUS – 1 seat (At-Large); LAW – 1 seat (At-large) & 1 GPSC seat; CLASS – 1 seat (UC), OPT – 2 seats (At-large); GCSW – 2 seats (At-large) & 1 GPSC seat;

**VISITORS:** Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Wynne Chin (Professor, C.T. Bauer College of Business), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Amr Elnashai (VC/VP, Research & Technology Transfer), 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), Sarah Larsen (Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost & Dean, Undergraduate Affairs, Paula Myrick Short (Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President, Academic Affairs & Provost), Jason Smith (Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 20, 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.

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

FS Pres. Jerónimo Cortina reported on the following items:

- Faculty Senate website: FAC is currently transitioning the Senate website to more flexible platform. The website will be more user-friendly.
- The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee (FHRC) has started the process of reviewing the Faculty Handbook. A survey will be sent to campus stakeholders by the end of this week to identify potential issues within the Faculty Handbook.
- Deadline for the New Senator Service award is drawing close (April 6<sup>th</sup>). Encouraged senators to nominate colleagues.
- The state government has allowed that all adults can be vaccinated. Dr. Cortina gave kudos to Pres. Renu Khator and Dr. Suzy Harrington for their leadership on the on-campus vaccinations.
- COVID-19 On-campus Testing Kiosk: Dr. Cortina reminded everyone that testing is still available and encouraged everyone to utilize the free service.
- UH Strategic Plan: Implementation is moving forward and that there is faculty representation on the many working groups within the implementation committees.
- UH Basketball: There will be a game at then of this week. Dr. Cortina gave kudos to the team and Athletics overall.

Q&A Session:

Senator Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau asked if UH is going to require students to be vaccinated to attend in-person classes or to be able to live on-campus. Dr. Cortina responded that he didn't have an answer and said when the conversation regarding the COVID-19 vaccination requirement is started, the Faculty Senate would likely be included in part of the discussion. As of now, the federal and state governments do not require anyone to get vaccinated. Dr. Tamber-Rosenau asked how he can get COVID-19 vaccination campus requirement into the conversation. FS Pres. Cortina said that since Sen. Tamber-Rosenau brought up this issue during the Senate meeting, it will be noted and the Senate will report back when movements have been made to address the issue.

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

Pres. Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- COVID-19 Vaccine: UH can't require anyone to get the vaccine. Currently state and local governments are not requiring individuals to get vaccinated.
- Federal Stimulus Plan (American Rescue Plan Act): \$40B for higher education and UH will receive a little over \$100M (UH doesn't know the spending details as of yet).
  - A substantial portion will be directed towards students.
  - The rest of the funds will go to revenue losses that UH has sustained.
- State Legislature:
  - VC Jason Smith and Chan. Renu Khator have been meeting with legislators and advocating UH's Strategic Plan. There haven't been any negative responses to the plan: only positive feedback.
    - A study by the State legislature would need to be done to study the impact of a top 50 public university. Doing so would help UH obtain funding to achieve this goal and give the State justification for investing in UH.
  - There is some TRB funding available: UH has submitted building requests.
  - Pres. Khator mentioned that she hasn't heard from the State about budget cuts.
- Fall 2021 Term:
  - UH will operate under the assumption that the fall semester will be as normal as possible (in-person operation). However, UH will be ready to pivot to online operations if needed.
- UH Commencement – Spring 2021:
  - Will be held in-person at the TDECU Stadium. UH is prepared to go online for the commencement if needed (at another date).
  - Ceremonies will be shorter and will be livestreamed
  - No one is required to participate
  - No rain dates
- UH Basketball Game:
  - The next game is with Syracuse.
  - Women's UH basketball is doing great.

Q&A Session:

Senator Manos Papadakis asked if Pres. Khator sees any projections of income increase from the success of the basketball team. Dr. Khator responded that it depends on how you compare the successes: the U.S. is still in a middle of a pandemic and UH can't fill up the sports arena. There's an increase in demand, media attention, and recognition, but they aren't tangible income sources.

**Update and Discussion with the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations & University of Houston Vice President for Governmental Relations: [Jason Smith](#)**

VC Jason Smith reported on the following items:

- House and Senate are wrapping up their budgets: budgets will go to the floor of the respective areas and legislators will need to figure out the differences in a conference committee. Projected to finalize budgets around May.

- Federal Stimulus package: The State will need to figure out spending requirements for higher education.
- There is potential money for one-time funds: TRB for UHS buildings.
- The UH Session has been going well. UHS has been receiving positive support from the legislative members.
- The Senate Finance Committee adopted UH's Top 50 study rider. The House would also adopt the rider (next week).
- Continue to protect the funding for the College of Medicine (requested \$20M start-up funds) and the higher-level of funding for health-related institutions.
- Chair Coleman filed two bills for consideration:
  - Support more mental health funding for students & being able to utilize the student union fee for programming (currently not allowed).
  - Give UH College of Medicine access to JAMP (a pipeline program for students who would like to go to medical school).

**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 reported on the following items:

- Fall 2021 Term:
  - Prepping and anticipating to operate face-to-face, also ready to convert to online operations if needed. As always, UH is monitoring the situation week to week and will seek guidance from medical experts.
- Summer 2021 Term:
  - Will operate similar to summer 2020. Dr. Short mentioned that students seem to prefer the summer online courses. It has helped students to stay on track and move forward in their academic career, by offering more online core courses in the summer.
- The Class Schedule will be available tomorrow for faculty.
- Enrollment and recruitment: UHS provosts are creating pipelines to Ph.D. programs.

Q&A Session:

Senator Manos Papadakis asked if there will be a preparatory year (specifically in the STEM areas) included these pipeline programs to help advance students to graduate study. Provost Short responded that all strategies are on the table for discussion as the group begins putting the details together. She said she would take Sen. Papadakis' into consideration and forward it to the group as well.

**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](#)**

Mr. Raymond Bartlett reported on the following items:

- Continue to work on opportunities for administrative efficiencies.
- UH Extend Program: on schedule for the launch in Fall 2021
- Capital Projects: Moving forward on schedule
  - Breaking ground soon for the second tower of the UH Hilton Hotel
  - Law building and COM building construction moving forward
- Curative COVID-19 Testing Kiosk:
  - Working on extending their presence on campus to May 2021

## Q&A Session:

Senator Manos Papadakis commented that it would be helpful to see a more standardized format of the budget like the NACUBO format for the UH budget. He would like to see the historical budget allocation changes. SVP Raymond Bartlett replied that the UH budget does have some of the NACUBO categories and that there is a table showing the categories. Dr. Papadakis said that he couldn't find it in the many pages of the budget. SVP Bartlett said that he would be happy to point Sen. Papadakis in the direction of finding the table.

Senator Holley Love asked if the Curative kiosk will return for the fall 2021 term. SVP Bartlett said that Curative makes their decisions four to six weeks at a time. As the expiration of the contract draws close, UH will monitor the current situation, demand for testing, etc. and if there's justification, a case will be made to renew the contract with Curative. However, the renewal will rely heavily on the data.

Senator George Zouridakis commented that his understanding of the UH Extend program is that it focuses on recruiting new students (the risks is taken up by the college if they participate in the program). He asked about the latest version of the program. Provost Short replied that UH Extend draws on recruiting students from a different and new population. The program won't cannibalize the colleges' traditional student populations from where they usually focus their recruitment efforts.

## 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 presented to senior administration the overview strategy for the Technology Bridge over the next ten years.
  - Two scenarios:
    - Existing funding & infrastructure
    - Expansion with \$10M over five years (Pres. Khator inclined toward this scenario)
- Updating DoR Strategy
  - Better align strategy with UH Strategic plan and federal priorities
- UH Strategic Planning: Goal 2 Committee – Research Preeminence
  - Group had several briefing sessions with deans, students, RSC, and Centers & Institute directors
  - Preliminary report should be done by June.
- DoR annual report is posted on the DoR website. DoR has done well despite the pandemic.
- Collaborating with McAllister & Quinn to produce a new version of the vertical thrusts to align with the goal of becoming a top 50 public university

## New Business

- Senator Manos Papadakis requested that the Faculty Senate acknowledge this historic event.
  - Motion: The Faculty Senate acknowledges the Greek revolution (1821).
    - Second by Senator George Zouridakis
  - Pres. Jeronimo Cortina opened the floor for discussion.
    - No discussion followed
  - Vote: The Faculty Senate acknowledges the the Greek revolution of 1821 and the contributions to democracy and freedom.
    - 74 responses: **52 in favor**, 4 oppose, 18 abstentions

- The motion passed as stated in the Teams meeting chat.
- Senator Charles Becker requested that the Faculty Senate put forth a statement condemning anti-Asian discrimination and violence
  - Motion: The Faculty Senate condemns in the strongest terms possible the recent increase in discrimination and violence toward Asians and Asian-Americans, and stands in solidarity with the AAPI community at the University of Houston and in the Greater Houston Community.
    - Dr. Wynne Chin (BUS) expressed his support of the motion.
    - Seconded by Senators Vallabh Das and Manos Papadakis.
  - Pres. Jeronimo Cortina opened the floor for discussion.
    - No discussion followed.
  - Vote: Adoption of the motion “The Faculty Senate condemns in the strongest terms possible the recent increase in discrimination and violence toward Asians and Asian-Americans, and stands in solidarity with the AAPI community at the University of Houston and in the Greater Houston Community.”
    - The motion passed by acclamation.

**Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



**Spring/Summer 2021 Faculty Senate Meetings**

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](#)**

