

**2021 Faculty Senate Candidate Profile  
Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Delegate Position**



**Name:** Mark Knoblauch

**College:** Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Department:** Health and Human Performance

**Years at UH:** 8

**Years on the Senate:** 1

**Please provide a brief description of your activities in the following areas for the past five years.**

**1) Service (including the Faculty Senate):**

For the past 8 years I have been engaged in a wide range of service activities. I have served at the department, college, and University-level committee level including serving as member or chair of multiple faculty search committees and serving on the Professional Master's Degree committee, the CLASS graduate committee, and the Health Professions Advisory Committee, and was elected in 2020 to the Faculty Senate. Specific to my profession I have served as chair for both regional and national committees, am currently a peer reviewer (site reviewer) for our academic program's accrediting body, and serve as a reviewer for multiple journals. As a faculty member representing our Master of Athletic Training (MAT) program, I also volunteer to provide medical care at several area events each year including the Houston Marathon, Ironman Texas, and the Woodlands Ironman events.

**2) Scholarship/Research:**

During my doctoral work at the University of Houston and my post-doctoral work at Baylor College of Medicine, my research was focused primarily in the areas of skeletal muscle structural physiology. Since coming to UH in 2014 as a clinical professor, my scholarship efforts have been largely focused on mentoring our MAT students' research efforts, primarily in the area of case reports that they must complete each semester as a part of their clinical experiences and ultimately submit for publication or presentation at a conference. Separately, I have served as editor of two academic textbooks (one *in press*) and have self-published several patient-focused books in the area of vestibular disorders.

**3) Teaching:**

For the past eight years I have been a clinical faculty member in the MAT program at UH which prepares students to take their board examinations to become certified as athletic trainers. Within the MAT program I am involved in maintaining accreditation standards, curriculum development, teaching of program courses, mentoring MAT student case report development, and developing and coordinating student clinical experiences.

**What are the three (3) most important issues you would like to see addressed by the Faculty Senate next year?**

- 1) The first area I would like to see our efforts focus toward is advancing the University's Strategic Plan. The Plan is a guide for where we want UH to be in the future and includes aspects such as being a top-50 university, enhancing our research output, maintaining an inclusive environment, and producing a strong athletic program. I would like to see how we as Senate members can work with the administration to advance the Plan given that its success would benefit all involved.

- 2) I want to advance the notion of work-life balance. COVID-19 has proven to us all that we do not need to physically be in our office for long hours to be productive. My own profession developed on the notion that if you aren't working long hours, you aren't committed to the job. This is an outdated and antiquated belief that has removed many great professionals from the field. Working smart can be much more productive than working hard, and as faculty (and staff) with families we need to ensure that we have the support from our colleagues and the University in order to maintain work productivity while being able to maintain our personal lives.
- 3) I would like to see the Senate continue work to improve the relationship between education and athletics. As someone who has now been employed full-time in both the athletic and academic setting, I have been able to understand the discussion from both sides – *A university is about academics, not athletics* and *Athletics is a vital part of a university*. The COIA delegate should serve as a liaison between the two entities, and I believe that building a relationship can work to benefit both. Inviting faculty members into the pre-game procedures at a home football game, for example, exposes faculty to what student-athletes and staff experience and allows the faculty member to be involved beyond the pre-game tailgate. Conversely, inviting coaches to a research lab or classroom in order to see how that lecture or research can impact their athletes' performance (physically, psychologically, etc.) may give new insight to a coach whose only prior involvement with academics is the constant frustration in feeling that classes interfere with team workouts. I believe that athletics is a vital component of a university, but education must remain the priority. Working to improve the relationship between the two facets is something that I believe the Faculty Senate can be successful in achieving.