



**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Jeronimo Cortina called the April 14, 2021 Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate meeting to order via Microsoft Teams at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (118)

ARCH: G. Chow, D. Froehlich, M. Kubo, P. Peters, Z. Qureshi
ARTS: N. Harren, T. Koozin, S. Matijcio, C. Meals, T. Morgulis, S. Zalman
BUS: N. Celly, J. Hess, N. Johnson, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin
EDU: C. Arbona, J. Freiberg, 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, 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: K. Anderson, F. Bunta, P. Butler, L. Camaj, J. Cortina, H. Glass, M. Goldberg, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, L. Maher, L. Oliveira, R. Ramos, S. Scarrow, C. Sharp, E. Simas, 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. Jones, K. Rowland
NSM: B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, R. Capuano, R. Forrest, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, M. Papadakis, Z. Ren, N. Rizk, V. Sisson, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams, P. Schrader
OPT: D. Coates, V. Das, L. Frishman, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Porter
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, R. Ghose, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
GCSW: S. Narendorf
RES CTRS: S. Chung
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, H. Hutchins, A. Lendasse, F. Merchant, G. Zouridakis

MEMBERS ABSENT: (25)

BUS: C. Becker, P. Kumar, L. Silva, S. Werner
ARTS: F. Fernando, K. Rigdon
EDU: W. Fan
ENGR: S. Pei
LAW: D. Fagundes
CLASS: E. Alemán, R. Boul, S. Craig, D. Papell, G. San Miguel, C. Spitzmueller
NSM: K. Bassler, A. Czader, M. Das, S. Huang, V. Lubchenko, M. Nicol, A. Quaini, G. Toti, S. Xu
GCSW: S. Jennings

TECH: J. Evans, M. Kidd

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), Neil Hart (Exec. Dir., Parking & Transportation), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Administration & Finance), Lisa Holdeman (VC/VP, University Marketing & Communication), Athena Jackson, (Dean, University Libraries), 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, Rebecca Lowicki (Director for Communications, Administration & Finance), Emily Messa (AVC/AVP, Administration), Bill Monroe (Dean, The Honors College)

Minutes: The minutes of the March 24, 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.

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

FS President Jerónimo Cortina reported on the following items:

- FS Pres. Cortina echoed UH Pres. Khator's update email on the accomplishments made over the past year. He gave kudos to the collaborative nature of Senate and administration regarding the shared governance process.
- Lab Renovation: Moving forward with the process this year.
- Fall 2021:
 - Expectation to return to campus with measures to keep the campus safe
- Vaccine Clinics have been well-attended.
- Curative COVID-19 Testing Kiosk: Dr. Cortina encouraged everyone to get tested.
- Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC):
 - FAC is working on overhauling the Senate website for a more efficient and dynamic information resource.
 - The FAC is also working on a leadership pipeline for newer senators.

Presentation of the 2021 UH Grievance Committee Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos presented the 2021 UH Grievance Committee candidate slate to the Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate Faculty Governance Committee met on March 25th to certify the slate of candidates for the UH Faculty Grievance Committee. Dr. Ramos announced that there are seven positions available. Candidates for five of the seven positions must be full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty with the rank of associate professor or higher. Members of administration (department chair or higher) are not eligible to serve on this committee. Each position for tenured/tenure-track faculty carries a full three-year term.

Also, the Grievance Committee requires six promotion-eligible non-tenure track positions. There are two non-tenure track faculty positions available this election cycle. Each position for non-tenure track faculty carries a full three-year term.

The Tenure Track candidates are:

- Carl Boger, Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Jakoah Brgoch, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

- Sara McNeil, College of Education
- Jaime Ortiz, College of Technology
- Debora Rodriguez, Cullen College of Engineering
- Kristi Santi, College of Education
- Shainy Varghese, College of Nursing

The Non-Tenure Track candidates are:

- Mary Bean, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- Whitney Breslin, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- Samuel Brower, College of Education
- Julia Kleinheider, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- Joe Wheat, College of Optometry

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos opened the floor to additional nominations. No additional nominations were brought forth. Dr. Ramos announced that voting will be conducted online and faculty will be notified by email when the election is open for voting.

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

- Pres. Khator informed the Senate that the Higher Education Committee of the state legislature had requested UH's General Counsel to testify on behalf of UH regarding legal process.
- Pres. Khator welcomed questions from the Senate.

Senator Anna Vershynina asked about Dr. Khator's April 13th email: what does it mean that "none of the budget bills have included additional funds to cover enrollment growth since 2019"? If there's enrollment growth, shouldn't that generate revenue from tuition? Dr. Khator responded that whatever the institution's enrollment is, that money goes back to the state budget pool and the state allocates a certain amount of funds for enrollment and divides and distributes the funds to universities. She gave an example that if a university receives \$56/SCH in 2019 and the overall enrollment in Texas hasn't increased (and the state provide additional funds), then that university may get only \$52/SCH. If other universities' enrollment has increased, but one university's enrollment doesn't, then the dollar amount/SCH may decrease further. Tuition does work, but the tuition part doesn't go back to the state. International tuition part does go back to the state. If a university offers discounted fees or tuition, then this gets deducted further by the state.

Senator Vershynina asked further about where additional funds will come from especially when the House and Senate have different priorities for higher education budget. Pres. Khator responded that the House, Senate, and the governor have their own budgets. Whatever items are the same among the budgets will move forward. Budget items not moved forward will go to the conference committee to be discussed. The conference committee will decide to provide additional funding or not. Dr. Khator gave the example of the College of Medicine funding request.

Senator Natilee Harren asked if the university plans to require students to be vaccinated by the fall? If not (or if this not legally possible), through what means will students be encouraged to get vaccinated? Dr. Khator replied that UH can't require students to be vaccinated, but the university will try to find ways to strongly encourage students to get vaccinated. She also welcomed ideas from senators.

Senator Stella Grigorian asked if there is any thought to increasing the salary of part-time lecturers? In CLASS, adjuncts have been getting \$3000 per course since forever. Pres. Khator responded that adjunct course prices are set by the college and department. Currently, the university isn't discussing extra money for courses or anything else since the legislative session isn't over yet.

Senator Jaana Porra commented that summer budgets for hiring haven't been approved. Would she have any idea when her college can hire (i.e., instructional assistants)? Pres. Khator referred Dr. Porra to SVP Bartlett and Provost Short to answer her question.

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:

- Winter Storm Remediation Update:
 - Repairs to Health 1 Building are completed.
 - STL building repairs (HVAC) has been pushed back to the end of April.
 - Improving landscaping around the campus after the storm
- Facilities & Planning Projects:
 - Core Renovations:
 - Roy C. Cullen building is on track to be completed by fall 2021.
 - SR1 building (exterior work) will be completed by fall 2021.
 - Capital Construction:
 - College of Medicine building is progressing (target completion is July 2022)
 - Law Center building – slightly ahead of schedule (target completion is July 2022)
 - UH Hilton Hotel: beginning the construction phase of the 2nd tower.
- COVID-19 Update:
 - Vaccination clinic events on campus
 - Student Health Center (students only)
 - Memorial Hermann Health event

Q&A Session:

Senator Hildegard Glass asked about the sixth floor Agnes Arnold Hall repair timeframe. SVP Bartlett responded that he would find out the status of the repair and will follow up with a timeframe as quickly as possible.

Senator Bret Detillier asked about the status of the Sugar Land building repairs. SVP Bartlett replied that he didn't have any updates on that specific task and would follow-up on that issue.

Senator Regina Capuano asked about the status on the repairs to SR1 building roof? Mr. Bartlett responded will double-check on that repair.

Senator Scott Gilbertson asked about the timeline for SERC repair project? Mr. Bartlett replied that project will extend another month due to HVAC units being back ordered.

Senator Douglas Thornton asked the status of the former TMC Pharmacy building. Mr. Bartlett responded that it's on the schedule for repairs and it's considered an ongoing initiative.

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 Strategy:
 - Updated the institutional research direction (thrusts): collaboration between McAllister & Quinn and the DoR team.

- Study done with consultants McAllister & Quinn with regards to federal research priorities
- UH Strategic Plan: Increase research expenditure \$300M+ and work towards being in the Top 50 public universities ranking.
- Updates to draft:
 - Added a fifth vertical (societal challenges): energy transition
 - Addition of Advanced Manufacturing as a research tool (horizontal)
 - What are the components of non-STEM disciplines that need to be integrated into the research enterprise?
- Restructuring of Office of Contracts & Grants (DoR's largest department)
- Developing initiatives related to strengthening research substantially and faculty hiring for the next three to five years.
- DoR Annual Report: VP Amr Elnashai encouraged the Senate to read about the many accomplishments of the research enterprise. It is posted on the DoR website.

Administration Presentation by University of Houston System Associate Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Associate Vice President for Administration: [Emily Messa](#)

AVP Emily Messa presented updated in the Office of Administration.

- Auxiliary Services Updates
 - Campus Bookstore
 - Remodeling of store
 - Reminder: textbook and early adoptions due April 15th for summer & fall 2021 courses
 - Dining
 - Technology Bridge: Market Next opens fall 2021; First touchless micro market
 - Delivery robots: currently 20 in service and will expand to 10 more for fall 2021
 - New restaurant Asado will be opening fall 2021. It will be located in the space formerly occupied by Freshii.
 - Food service lockers for contactless pick-up via the Boost mobile app
- Technology Service Enhancements
 - Department Appointment Portal (i.e., Cougar Card, Parking inquiries, etc.)
 - Cougar Card Online Photo Submission
 - Expand digital Cougar Card via UH Go app (fall 2021)
- Public art of the University of Houston System
 - Colorfield Exhibit (October 2020 – May 2021); 13 works of art outdoor on campus by 7 contemporary artists
 - Yard Works
 - Pilot program granting Houston-based emerging artists early exhibition opportunities for their art work
 - Will launch program with artist Tay Butler, "We Are Still Searching...(2019)"
 - Venue: Louie J. Moran Fine Arts Courtyard
 - On exhibition summer to December 2021
- Parking Updates and Enhancements
 - Dr. Emily Messa acknowledged the Transportation & Parking Advisory Committee (TPAC) for their hard work. TPAC members are: Ruth Manny, Jeremy May, Jeff Sherer, and George Gamble.
 - Upcoming Faculty Parking Changes for 2021-2022
 - Zones for All: faculty-staff ungated lots will merge with the student lots. Rate will be \$445.
 - Lower Garage Price: faculty-staff garage permit will be lowered to \$845 for 2021-2022

- Discount for certain gated lots located on the perimeter of the campus (\$100 less)
 - Transition to reserved areas: Stadium garage & parking lots 6A, 6B and 19E will transition to reserved areas of individual reserved spaces for parker efficiency.
- Permit Auto Renewal for faculty/staff gated, garage, or reserved permits. Automatic renewal for those who pay via payroll deduction.
- Text Alerts regarding a wide range of campus parking and transportation issues.
- TECH Bridge Permit
- Key Dates for Faculty
 - April 15th: Faculty/Staff Parking Permit Email
 - April 19th: Faculty/Staff Permit Registration Opens
 - April 21st (11am-12pm): Faculty/Staff Town Hall

Q&A Session:

Senator Bernhard Bodmann asked if the market model for pricing is still used for parking pricing or are there other ideas? Dr. Messa referred Dr. Bodmann to Executive Director of Parking Neil Hart. Mr. Hart responded currently it's a hybrid of market pricing and other ideas. Every parking rate discussion, debt service has to be addressed at the start and then build the rates around that. Parking and Transportation tries to be flexible everywhere they can do so.

Senator Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau asked if there will be an option for faculty who work across buildings to have a multi-zone parking pass? Neil Hart replied that this isn't an option at this time. However, his department has been increasing shuttle service at high faculty/staff frequency buildings as an option. The zones have to stay at the number of spaces allotted esp. between the peak hours. Emily Messa added that the zone parking times are from 7am-3pm (Mon.-Fri.). Zone parkers can move between zones after 3pm weekdays and on weekends. Dr. Tamber-Rosenau said that a shuttle won't work for faculty who need to travel to and from off-campus meeting locations to on-campus meetings. He asked if a few spaces could be designated as a flexible parking lots in each of the zones. Mr. Hart said he would look into this, but said that he would like to know about Sen. Tamber-Rosenau's situation to make sure his concern is addressed.

Senator Anna Vershynina asked if UH will still issue a bus card as an incentive to encourage faculty/staff to use public transportation. Dr. Messa replied that through the COAST program, this incentive will still be offered to faculty/staff.

Senator Zhifeng Ren commented that he has some good ideas to increase space in lot 16C without increasing cost. Mr. Hart responded that lot 16C will convert to Zone B for more space.

Senator Anna Vershynina requested if someone could check the security of bicycle parking racks before the fall term. She noticed that some of the racks were broken and not secure last year. Dr. Messa said her department will definitely look into this issue.

Presentation of the Spring 2021 Senator Election Results and Senate Officer Candidate Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos announced that the Faculty Governance Committee met on March 25th and April 8th, to certify the Senate election results and to certify the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate leadership candidate slate.

The results of the Faculty Senate Election are as follows:

College of Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture & Design

- Dietmar Froehlich (GPSC seat)
- Mili Kyropoulou (RSC seat)

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

- Rachel Bush, THEA/DAN (At-Large seat)
- Rex Koontz, ART (GPSC seat)

C. T. Bauer College of Business

- Swati Basu, FINA (GPSC seat)
- Barbara Carlin, UG PROG (UC seat)

College of Education

- Shawn Kent, ELPS (UC seat)
- April Peter-Hawkins, ELPS (At-Large seat)

Cullen College of Engineering

- Dmitri Litvinov, ECE (At-Large seat)
- Cunjiang Yu, ME (RSC seat)

Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management

- Tiffany Legendre (At-Large seat)
- Juan Madera (GPSC seat)

The UH Law Center

- Elizabeth Trujillo (At-Large seat)

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

- Lindita Camaj, COMM (At-Large seat)
- Scot Pott, COMD (UC seat)
- Julie Tolliver, MCL (RSC CLASS Humanities seat)
- Ling Zhu, POLSCI (RSC CLASS Social Sciences seat)

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences: Modern & Classical Languages

- Hildegard Glass (At-Large seat)

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

- Melahat Almus, MATH (UC seat)
- Bernhard Bodmann, MATH (RSC seat)
- Atife Caglar, MATH (At-Large seat)
- Lisa Farmer, BIOL/BCH (At-Large seat)
- Donna Pattison, BIOL/BCH (At-Large seat)
- Blerina Xhabli, MATH (UC seat)

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics: Chemistry

- Jakoah Brgoch (At-Large seat)

College of Nursing

- Cheryl Brohard (RSC seat)

College of Optometry

- Ruth Manny (At-Large seat)
- Jason Porter (GPSC seat)

College of Pharmacy

- Gomika Udugamasooriya, PPS (At-Large seat)

Research Centers

- Sanghyuk Chung (RSC seat)

Research Faculty

- Olga Bannova, ENGR

Graduate College of Social Work

- Samira Ali (GPSC seat)

College of Technology

- Maria Burns, CNST (RSC seat)
- Xiaojing Yuan, ET (GPSC seat)
- Wm. Arthur Conklin, ILT (GPSC seat)

University Libraries

Taylor Davis-Van Atta (At-Large seat)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos presented the Senate officer candidate slate

President-elect candidates:

David Shattuck, ENGR

Sandra Zalman, ARTS

Secretary candidates:

Jaana Porra, BUS

Jason Porter, OPT

Member-at-large candidates:

Kerry Creelman, LIB

Dave Fagundes, LAW

Holley Love, ENGR

Jeremy May NSM

Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics Delegate (COIA):

Mark Knoblauch, CLASS

Chad Wayne, NSM

No additional nominations were made and Dr. Ramos closed the floor.

President-elect Candidate speeches followed after the presentation of the officer candidate slate.

Dr. Ramos announced that candidate profiles will be posted on the Faculty Senate website. Senators will receive an email invitation when the election has been launched.

Old Business

The Road to Change Initiative: Senator Dustin Gish

Dr. Gish gave a brief overview of the student-led initiative. Students have gathered information to create a formal petition to file with the City of Houston. Signatures of property owners and stakeholders are still needed. The petition seeks to change the name of Calhoun Rd (the portion from Wheeler Ave. to Old Spanish Trail). Sen. Gish is seeking the support of the UH Faculty Senate so that it can be included in the language of the petition. The initiative is currently sponsored by The Honors College and working in collaboration with the Zina Garrison Tennis Academy.

Pres. Jeronimo Cortina called for a motion to start the discussion of the initiative. A second was made and the floor was opened for discussion. Senator Gish mentioned that the motion to vote would be the expression to support the initiative.

Initiative Language:

"The Road to Change" Initiative of the Honors College, a student-led, faculty-directed effort, is seeking to petition the City of Houston for a formal change of name for the existing "Calhoun Road" (named after American politician John C. Calhoun, a prominent advocate for the reprehensible institution of slavery in the Antebellum period, and the owner of enslaved persons himself). The association of the current name of "Calhoun Road" with the corrosive injustices of slavery in America is utterly inappropriate and offensive to the University of Houston community, and other local community stakeholders. Working with the Zina Garrison Tennis Academy in MacGregor Park, the initiative is proposing to the City that the road (or a segment of road from Wheeler Avenue to Old Spanish Trail) be renamed to recognize the contributions of the Academy's John Wilkerson and the ethical values which he exhibited and promoted as an exceptional coach and mentor of young adults: hard work, professionalism, personal integrity, and a dedication to excellence.

Sen. Dustin Gish presented in more detail the "The Road to Change" initiative. After much debate and discussion, the Senate moved forward to vote.

Pres. Cortina put forth the question on the table, "The Faculty Senate expresses its support for "The Road to Change" Initiative of the Honors College, a student-led, faculty-directed effort." The amendment was seconded.

Vote Results:

In favor: 68

Oppose: 0
Abstain: 9

The motion passed. Sen. Dustin Gish mentioned that he would be giving updates on the initiative.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



Spring/Summer 2021 Faculty Senate Meetings

May 12, 2021
June 16, 2021 (if called)
July 21, 2021 (if called)

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

