



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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: (103)

ARCH: G. Chow, D. Froehlich, P. Peters, Z. Qureshi
ARTS: F. Fernando, N. Harren, T. Koozin, S. Matijcio, C. Meals, S. Zalman
BUS: N. Celly, J. Hess, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, L. Hutchison, M. Lee
ENGR: C. Chang, J. Conrad, L. Grabow, K. Larin, H. Love, B. Metrovich, Y. Mo, S. Pei, M. Robertson, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao
HON: S. Long
HRM: J. Draper, Y. Koh, 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. Knoblauch, L. Maher, L. Oliveira, R. Ramos, G. San Miguel, Jr., S. Scarrow, 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, S. Gilbertson, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, N. Rizk, V. Sisson, A. Vershynina
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, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
GCSW: S. Narendorf
RES CTRS: S. Chung
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, M. Kidd, A. Lendasse, F. Merchant

MEMBERS ABSENT: (41)

ARCH: M. Kubo
ARTS: K. Rigdon, T. Morgulis
BUS: C. Becker, N. Johnson, P. Kumar, L. Silva, S. Werner
EDU: W. Fan, J. Freiberg, A. Thompson
ENGR: K. Grigoriadis
HON: D. Gish
HRM: J. Madera, C. Morosan
LAW: D. Fagundes

CLASS: E. Alemán, R. Boul, S. Craig, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, D. Papell, C. Sharp, E. Simas, C. Spitzmueller, C. Tolliver
NSM: K. Bassler, M. Das, S. Huang, V. Lubchenko, M. Nicol, M. Papadakis, A. Quaini, Z. Ren, G. Toti, C. Wayne, S. Xu
GCSW: S. Jennings
TECH: H. Hutchins, G. Zouridakis

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), 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), 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), Cindy Mejia (Chief of Staff, Provost Office), Paula Myrick Short (SVC/SVP, Academic Affairs & Provost)

Minutes: The minutes of the April 14, 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 gave kudos to the Senate for their hard work and dedication despite the difficult academic year. He thanked the senators for their compassion and flexibility towards the students, colleagues, and staff. Dr. Cortina wished everyone a restful summer.
- Thanks to Provost Short, the Faculty Senate will outfit the Senate conference room with video conferencing technology to increase flexibility in Senate meetings and related events.
- The Senate will launch a “check-in” survey at the end of summer to gather data on how faculty are doing with the fall 2021 return to campus.
- There are scheduled Faculty Senate meetings for June and July if needed.

Presentation of the 2021 Inaugural Faculty Senate New Senator Service Award: [Jerónimo Cortina](#)

FS President Jerónimo Cortina presented the inaugural New Senator award to Dr. Vera Hutchison (EDU). He gave an overview of Dr. Hutchison’s work in the Senate and at the University. Senator Hutchison expressed her gratitude toward her colleague and the University of Houston.

Presentation of the 2021 UH Grievance Committee Election Results and Senate Officer Election Results and the Faculty Senate Officer Election Results by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Raúl Ramos](#)

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos presented the 2021 UH Grievance Committee election results to the Faculty Senate.

The **2021 UH Grievance Committee** election concluded on April 21st and results were certified on May 6th. Of the 1,624 eligible voters, 0 faculty opted out, while 605 cast a ballot for a campus participation rate of 37%.

Tenured/Tenure Track faculty elected to a three-year term are:

- Jakoah Brgoch, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- Sara McNeil, College of Education

- Debora Rodriguez, Cullen College of Engineering
- Kristi Santi, College of Education
- Shainy Varghese, College of Nursing

Non-Tenure Track faculty elected to a three-year term are:

- Whitney Breslin, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- Julia Kleinheider, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos congratulated the newest committee members and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the UH Grievance Committee.

Next, FGC Chair Raúl Ramos presented the 2021 Faculty Senate officer election results.

The 2021 Senate Officer elections have concluded and results certified on May 6th. The following senators elected to the following positions are:

2021-2022 President Elect:

David Shattuck, Cullen College of Engineering

2021-2022 Secretary:

Jaana Porra, C. T. Bauer College of Business

2021-2022 Members-At-Large:

Kerry Creelman, University Libraries
Jeremy May, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

2021-2023 Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Delegate:

Mark Knoblauch, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

2021-2022 Faculty Governance Committee members:

Kate Anderson, CLASS

Katherine Brem, LAW

Ferenc Bunta, CLASS

Kerry Creelman, LIB

Romi Ghose, PHA

Kathleen Jones, COM

Kirill Larin, ENGR

Mimi Lee, EDU

Ruth Manny, OPT

Jeremy May, NSM

Fatima Merchant, TECH

Chad Wayne, NSM

FGC Chair Raúl Ramos congratulated the new Senate officers. He commented that the Senate looks forward to their guidance and work as leaders in the upcoming academic year.

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

Pres. Renu Khator expressed her gratitude to Dr. Jeronimo Cortina for his amazing leadership during the pandemic. She thanked the Executive Committee members and senators for their service to UH. Pres. Khator congratulated Dr. Hutchison on New Senator award. Lastly, Dr. Khator congratulated the newly-elected Senate officers. She commented that she looks forward to working with the new administration in the 2021 fall term.

Pres. Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- 2021 Spring Commencement: Ceremony was rescheduled to a later date due to inclement weather.
 - There are 5962 students graduating. The youngest graduate is nineteen years old and the oldest graduate is 75 years old.
- Current events:
 - Pres. Khator mentioned that she had participated in an APLU panel regarding API (Asian Pacific Islander). Discussed the current events regarding the Asian hate crimes.
- State Legislature:
 - Continuing to advocate for UH's agenda
- Enrollment:
 - UH Enrollment is doing fine with some areas of concern.
 - Graduate & FTIC enrollment is looking great
 - Returning students is an area of concern.
 - Housing capacity is 65% so far for fall 2021 and is increasing each week.

Pres. Khator thanked the Faculty Senate for their service to UH and caring for the students during the past sixteen months under difficult circumstances.

Report from the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Paula Myrick Short](#)

Provost Paula Short thanked FS Pres. Jeronimo Cortina for his extraordinary working relationship with administration. She also thanked FS President-elect Vallabh Das for his collaborative leadership over the past academic year. Dr. Short expressed her gratitude towards the faculty for responding positively during the pandemic.

Provost Short reported on the following items:

- Congratulated the Faculty Excellence Award recipients.
- The Provost Office will offer small faculty grants (\$5,000): the call for proposals will be sent out in the next few weeks.
- Enrollment:
 - Summer 2021 enrollment is looking good (compared to summer 2019 enrollment):
 - Undergraduate enrollment is up by 3%
 - Graduate & Professional enrollment is up by 1.2%
 - Fall 2021 enrollment
 - Dr. Short asked for faculty and the colleges' help in getting returning students to enroll.

Q&A Session:

Senator Bernhard Bodmann wanted to raise awareness that some members of the UH community who have been traumatized by the pandemic. He would like to see UH make every effort to reach out and address

those who have been struggling: especially as the UH community returns to campus. Provost Short responded by thanking Dr. Bodmann for bringing up this issue and will work on this concern. She encouraged feedback from the faculty and UH community.

Provost Short congratulated David Shattuck as the newly-elected FS President-elect. She also congratulated Dr. Vera Hutchison on her well-deserved honor.

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:

- Lab Survey: 66% response rate
 - Hired a third party consultant to assist in this project. SVP Bartlett will meet with them next week to discuss next steps.
 - Purpose: To help develop policies/procedures to affect change – esp. lab renovations.
- Laboratory Usage Guide (LUG): Obtain lab inventory
- Winter Storm Update:
 - SERC – completion date by May 17th.
- Federal Stimulus Funds:
 - Once the third round of stimulus funds are distributed, about \$90M will have been distributed to students overall.

SVP Raymond Bartlett thanked the Council of Chairs and the Research & Scholarship Committee (RSC) for inviting him and AVP David Oliver to their meetings respectively. Discussions focused on planned maintenance, facilities, and customer service.

Q&A Session:

Senator Rebecca Forrest inquired about the SR1 roof update. SVP Bartlett responded that the roof is part of the overall SR1 renovation. FGC is focusing on the exterior first.

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:

- Top 50 Public University Goal:
 - Working on a core facilities plan (shared model)
 - Inventory all the equipment at UH
 - Establish five core facilities to align with research priorities.
- Faculty trips to Washington D. C. (remote visits) facilitated by McAllister & Quinn
- DOR – Office of Contracts & Grants
 - Restructuring plan completed.
 - Launched search for Assistant Vice President for Sponsored Research Administration. VP Elnashai welcomed nominations.
- UH Strategic Plan – Goal 2 Implementation Committee
 - Will meet tomorrow to begin drafting implementation plan
- May 17, 2021 (Monday), DoR will launch stories of how UH research impact Houston.
 - 50 stories

FS Pres. Jeronimo Cortina thanked VP Amr Elnashai for supporting UH's research enterprise. He commented that DOR's customer service had improved significantly and extended his appreciation to DOR staff.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.



Summer 2021 Faculty Senate Meetings

June 16, 2021 (if called)

July 21, 2021 (if called)

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

