



**Fall Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M. D. Anderson Library
and Via Microsoft Teams
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Vallabh Das called the December 8, 2021 the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the senators for their service.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (115)

ARCH: G. Chow, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, P. Peters
ARTS: R. Bush, N. Harren, R. Koontz, T. Koozin, S. Matijcio, C. Meals, T. Morgulis, D. Politzer
BUS: C. Becker, B. Carlin, N. Celly, P. Kumar, A. Lish, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin, S. Werner
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee, April Peters
ENGR: D. Burleson, C. Chang, J. Conrad, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, H. Love, Y. Mo, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao
HRM: D. Christopher Taylor
LAW: K. Brem
CLASS: K. Anderson, A. Bencomo, F. Bunta, P. Butler, L. Camaj, J. Cortina, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, L. Maher, D. Papell, S. Pott, S. Scarrow, C. Sisk, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, J. Tolliver, Z. Xiao, L. Zhu
LIB: T. Davis-Van Atta, V. Douglas, S. Thompson, A. Wu
COM: G. Gomez, K. Jones, K. Rowland
NSM: M. Almus, B. Bodmann, J. Brgoch, J. Briggs, A. Caglar, R. Capuano, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, R. Forrest, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, M. Nicol, M. Papadakis, D. Pattison, Z. Ren, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne, B. Xhabli
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams, P. Schrader
OPT: D. Coates, V. Das, L. Frishman, S. Modi, J. O'Brien, J. Porter
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya
RES CTRS: S. Chung
GCSW: S. Ali, S. Narendorf
TECH: M. Burns, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, M. Kidd, A. Lendasse, F. Merchant, X. Yuan

MEMBERS ABSENT: (31)

ARCH: Z. Qureshi
ARTS: K. Rigdon
BUS: S. Basu
EDU: W. Fan, J. Freiberg
ENGR: D. Litvinov, S. Pei, M. Robertson
HON: D. Gish
HRM: Y. Koh, T. Legendre, J. Madera, S. Sirsat
LAW: D. Fagundes, J. Nelson, E. Trujillo
LIB: K. Creelman

CLASS: E. Alemán, R. Boul, S. Craig, S. Deyle, M. Goldberg, S. Grigorian, E. Simas, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic
NSM: S. Gilbertson
OPT: R. Manny
PHA: R. Ghose
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: W. Conklin

VACANT SEATS: (4) BUS – 1 seat (At-Large); GCSW – 2 seats (At-large) & 1 GPSC seat

VISITORS: Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Wynne Chin (BUS), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Amr Elnashai (VC/VP, Research & Transfer Technology), Fleurette Fernando (KGMCA), Stefanie Florencio (Libraries), Sabrina Hassumani (Associate Provost, Finance & Administration), Lisa Holdeman (VC/VP, Univ. Marketing & Communication), Renu Khator (Chancellor/President, UH), Sarah Larsen (Dean, Graduate School), Frank Peralez (Crabtree ASL Interpreting), Eduardo Reveles (Crabtree ASL Interpreting), Christophe Ribelayga (OPT), Paula Myrick Short (SVC/SVP, Academic Affairs & Provost), Christine Stover (Faculty Affairs)

Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2021 Meeting

The Senate approved the November 17, 2021 minutes as distributed.

Report from and Discussion with the Faculty Senate President: [Vallabh Das](#)

FS Pres. Vallabh Das reported on the following items:

- Faculty Senate Conference: The CGRC is currently planning the spring 2022 conference and CGRC Chair Susie Gronseth will give an update later in the meeting.
- COVID-19 Variant Update: Dr. Stephen Spann will give an update later in the meeting.
- Faculty Senate Website Committee (Chair Jaana Porra): The group is currently working creating a “version 1.0” of the Senate website. The goal is to publish version 1.0 during spring 2022.
- Board of Regents meetings are held quarterly and are livestreamed. FS Pres. Das encouraged senators to watch the livestreams or the recordings because the BOR meetings have useful information.
- New Assistant Professor Forum:
 - The Senate hosted the event on December 6th for new assistant professors to provide feedback on their first-term experience as UH faculty. Drs. Mark Clarke (Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs) and Lacey Schmidt (FED – Faculty Engagement & Development) helped facilitate the forum. FS Pres. Das thanked them for engaging with the faculty.

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

Pres. Renu Khator welcomed senators and guests to the meeting and reported on the following items:

- Federal Level: There wasn't anything new to report since last meeting.
- State Level:
 - UH PAC is currently busy with fundraisers. This committee makes contributions at the state level.
 - Texas State Rep. Garnet Coleman will not seek re-election after serving thirty years. UH will be watching the election to fill this seat.
- A closing ceremony was held at the Cullen Plaza to close out the capital campaign and honor donors who contributed gifts of \$1 million or more to UH.
- December 2, 2022 Board of Regents Meeting:

- Pres. Khator congratulated Dr. Vallabh Das on giving his first Senate remarks during the BOR meeting. She mentioned that he represented the Faculty Senate well and did a fantastic job.
- Ricky Raven is the newest UH regent (UH Alumni).
- Fall 2021 Commencement:
 - Ceremonies will be held on December 17-18, 2021.
 - Over five thousand students will be graduating. The youngest student will graduate at the age of eighteen years with a masters degree.
 - BOR approved this fall to give an honorary doctorate degree to Ms. Kathrine G. McGovern in the spring of 2022.
- UH Athletics:
 - Football: 11-2 Season; the team has done well this season.
 - Basketball: Team is currently ranked #14. Will play against #9 ranked Alabama this Saturday.
- UH President's Faculty Open House will be held this Friday, December 10, 2021, Wortham House.
- COVID-19: Dr. Spann will arrive later at the meeting to give the latest CoVID-19 update.

President Khator wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

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 mentioned that he didn't have any specific updates, but would be willing answer questions from the senators.

SVP Bartlett said that UH has reached an agreement with Curative to extend free COVID testing into the spring 2022 semester. His office is currently working on the logistics of the contract.

Sen. Manos Papadakis asked if corresponding salary centers are budgeted when tenure track faculty are given salary increments. How are these promotions funded? SVP Bartlett replied that UH does budget for P&T. Dr. Papadakis asked if COVID vaccines are given at the UH Health Center. SVP Bartlett replied that UH doesn't have a standing clinic for COVID vaccinations. UH has only had campaigns for COVID vaccinations on campus.

Sen. Brigitte Dauwalder asked if there will be COVID testing during the winter break. SVP Bartlett responded that he would double-check on that issue. He said he didn't think there would be any testing during the winter break.

Sen. Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau asked if UH is getting any data from Curative on positive cases (esp. since self-reporting to UH is voluntary). SVP Bartlett responded UH does receive data from Curative and that he reported this data at the last Senate meeting. Positive cases were about less than 1%. Dr. Tamber-Rosenau asked if data of student cases are reported and how does that match up to self-reported data. SVP Bartlett replied that he didn't think that specific level of data is possible to obtain. Raymond said he'll double-check.

Sen. Jakoah Brgoch asked if there is any consideration to returning to non-additional pre-pandemic travel paperwork (esp. for summer 2022 travel)? SVP Bartlett responded that UH continues to monitor the situation. With the new variant, Raymond Bartlett feels that UH isn't ready to lift travel restrictions just yet. He added that as the pandemic situation begins to improve, UH would consider returning to pre-pandemic travel paperwork process.

Report from 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:

- Increase in UH research income (currently 30%). However, research expenditures is more important and UH looks forward to increasing this aspect of research activity.
- Professor Ioannis Kakadiaris (NSM) received the largest research grant for UH (\$13.2 million).
- Celebration of Faculty (50-in-5) last Monday to honor faculty. The focus was on scholarly contributions. Another event will take place on February 7, 2022 and will focus on STEM contributions.
- DoR will launch a campus user needs/user satisfaction campus survey. TIMES will assist in creating and managing the survey. This survey will give DoR benchmarks and the division plans to repeat this survey every 6 months or yearly to reflect/improve the division's performance.

Update on Senate Biennial Conference by Community & Government Relations Chair: [Susie Gronseth](#)

CGRC Chair Susie Gronseth gave an overview of the upcoming 2022 biennial Senate conference – Rising Together: Advancing Higher Education through Equity and Innovation.

Date: January 27-28, 2022

Location: Wortham Theatre, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts

January 27 (6pm-9pm): Keynote speech by Dr. Stella Flores (Associate Professor of Higher Education & Public Policy, UT – Austin) and reception/live music will follow.

January 28 (8pm-2pm): Three panel sessions (1 hour each):

- Fostering Student Success Through Pandemic Challenges
- Role of UH in Community Engagement
- Achieving Equity at UH

CGRC Chair Susie announced that conference information and registration will soon be published on the conference website. The conference will be in-person and livestreamed. She encouraged senators to register and also invite colleagues (internal and external to UH).

Other Business/Announcements

Sen. Doug Thornton asked Pres. Renu Khator asked about the plans for the TMC3 building. UH received \$60M from the state legislature: which is not enough to build a substantial structure. Pres. Khator responded that she met with the TMC President, Bill McKeon and the board chair and discussed three options for UH.

- 1) Have someone build for UH and UH leases the building. Pres. Khator mentioned that she didn't want that option: UH wants to own its own building.
- 2) Join with Texas A&M since they receive the same funding as UH. Collaborating together will help fund a more substantial building.
- Find a For-profit organization to join UH. UH is currently in discussions with HCA to see if this is something they would like to do.

UH can begin construction until 2025, but Pres. Khator said she would like to have a plan started by March 2022 so that UH has a direction to work towards. Only research and education based activities are to be performed at the new TMC3 building (no clinical activity). The vision is to have an innovation hub focused on population health care.

Pres. Khator mentioned that an IDEA Lab (innovation hub) will be built on campus: most likely where the Technology Annex currently stands. The College of Technology will have a new building at the Sugar Land campus. Also, the new Hobby School for Public Affairs building will be built on top of the former Law Library.

Sen. Bret Detillier asked when the demolition of the Technology Annex will take place. Pres. Khator replied that there is no proposed timeline as of now.

Sen. Diana Chow asked about the plans for the TMC building that the College of Pharmacy had vacated in 2017. Pres. Khator responded that she is considering two plans: plan A) renovate and place Population Health Complex in that building or plan B) TMC is interested buying that piece of land and give UH a price, UH would sell the land and combine the proceeds with the \$60M (state) and give UH a better footprint for TMC3. There isn't a specific timeline yet, but Pres. Khator would like to start the process by March 2022.

SVP Raymond Bartlett informed the senators he recently received Curative data. As of December 7th, 2021, 648 tests were administered and there were fourteen positive cases.

Update on COVID-19 Variants by University of Houston Vice President for Medical Affairs and Founding Dean for the College of Medicine: [Stephen Spann](#)

Due to technical difficulties, Dr. Spann was unable to present an update.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.