



**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President David Shattuck called the February 15, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (107)

ARCH: J. Feng, D. Froehlich, P. Peters
ARTS: R. Bush, R. Koontz, S. Matijcio, D. Robinson, T. Van Kekerix
BUS: C. Becker, B. Carlin, N. Celly, H. Lin, A. Lish, M. Murray
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, B. Davis, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee, V. Rangel
ENGR: D. Burleson, C. Chang, J. Conrad, K. Grigoriadis, D. Litvinov, H. Love, Y. Mo, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck
HRM: P. Guchait, Y. Koh, C. Taylor
LAW: K. Brem, J. Nelson, E. Trujillo
CLASS: K. Anderson, J. Babcock, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, L. Camaj, P. Chakrabarti, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, P. Gutierrez, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, A. Pegoda, C. Sisk, C. Tamber-Rosenau, A. Viana, Z. Xiao, L. Zhu
LIB: T. Davis-Van Atta, V. Douglas, S. Thompson, M. Warren
COM: G. Gomez, K. Pilkinton
NSM: M. Almus, K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, J. Brgoch, J. Briggs, R. Capuano, B. Dauwalder, L. Farmer, S. Gilbertson, J. May, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison, J. Subhlok, A. Vershynina, B. Xhabli, Jerry Yang
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams, P. Schrader
OPT: V. Das, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. O'Brien, J. Porter
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, A. Marwaha, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya
HSPA: D. Engster
RES CTRS: S. Chung
RES FAC: O. Bannova
GCSW: S. Ali, S. Narendorf
TECH: A. Conklin, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, F. Merchant

MEMBERS ABSENT: (35)

ARCH: M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh
ARTS: J. Derges, J. Evans
BUS: S. Basu, P. Kumar, J. Porra
ENGR: D. Liu, JR Rao, M. Robertson
HON: D. Gish, D. Price
HRM: T. Legendre, J. Madera, S. Sirsat
LAW: D. Fagundes
CLASS: E. Alemán, L. Camaj, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, M. Goldberg, S. Grigorian, M. Knoblauch, D. Papell, E. Simas, D. Womble
LIB: A. Wu
NSM: T. Gill, R. Lee
PHA: D. Thornton
TECH: M. Burns, A. Lendasse, X. Yuan

VACANT SEATS: (9) ARTS – 2 seats (1 GPSC & 1 UC), BUS – 2 seats (1 At-Large, 1 UC); CLASS – 1 At-Large seat, COM – 1 GPSC seat, GCSW – 2 seats (1 At-large & 1 GPSC);

VISITORS: Raymond Bartlett (Administration & Finance), Mark Clarke (Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs), Mike Emery (Univ. Marketing & Comm), Sabrina Hassumani (Academic Affairs), Lisa Holdeman (Univ. Marketing & Comm), Sarah Larsen (The Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Undergraduate Student Success), Robert McPherson (Pres. Office), Cindy Mejia (Academic Affairs), Claudia Neuhauser (Div. of Research), Jason Smith (Community Government & Relations)

Approval of Minutes: January 18, 2023 Meeting

Minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

FS Pres. Dave Shattuck reminded senators to leave their name tents on the table so that attendance can be recorded.

Special Acknowledgement: Dr. Bob McPherson

Dr. Bob McPherson was acknowledged for his work as interim Provost. The Faculty Senate also wished him a happy birthday and served cake to celebrate this occasion.

Legislative Update from the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Community Government Relations: [Jason Smith](#)

VP Jason Smith introduced himself to the Senate and gave a brief summary of the legislative process.

He reported on the following items:

- President Renu Khator testified at the Senate Appropriations Committee last week and will testify at the House Appropriations Committee this Tuesday.
- The Senate and House had funded a \$2.5B endowment in which UH and Texas Tech will benefit. The enacting legislation hasn't been filed yet, but should be filed soon. UH is in a good position.
- The five state higher ed systems sent a letter to ask the state legislature to invest in the universities' base budget and in exchange, universities would keep tuition flat for the next two years. The state would also cover the cost of the Hazlewood exemption and the higher education group insurance. There's a budget rider that the state intends to invest in all the items mentioned. In addition to the rider, there's a provision in which the state legislature will fund more mental health resources for students. The Senate hasn't put this in their budget bill, but Jason Smith believes there's significant momentum to get this done during spring legislative session.
- Lt. Governor Priorities:
 - Address tenure at universities
 - Bill to end diversity, equity, inclusion programs (DEI) at universities
 - Jason Smith will educate the legislature about the effect of ending DEI.
 - Faculty can contact and discuss this issue with legislature on their own time. He also urged caution when broaching this topic with legislatures.

Report from the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Diane Z. Chase](#)

Provost Diane Chase thanked the senators and the UH Community for welcoming her.

SVP Diane Chase reported on the following items:

- College of Education Dean search has been launched and information is posted on the chat.

COE Dean Search: <https://www.parkersearch.com/current-opportunities/university-houston/dean-college-education>

- Dr. Mark Clarke will be transitioning back to the faculty community. There will be an internal search to fill the Associate Provost for Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs. Dr. Chase said she would like a full professor in this position. Dr. Clarke agreed to stay on with limits to help transition the new person hired.
- Pranking issue in large classes: Provost Chase welcomed suggestions from senators on how to deal with this issue.
- Student death on campus this morning: UHPD is working on this case. Dr. Chase plans to send a message to the UH community about this tragedy, since classes and offices were cancelled/closed.

FS President Dave Shattuck presented to Provost Chase a Senate summary of “What the new Provost should know about the UH” as a welcome gift.

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:

- Board of Regents (BoR) meeting will be held at UHD on February 23rd. The agenda will be posted to the BoR website on February 20th.
- UH Budget will be presented at the February BoR Meeting. President Khator and Provost Chase are beginning to discuss budget priorities.
- Cougar Textbook Access Program has been an overwhelming success. Dr. Emily Messa will present this program at the March Faculty Senate meeting.
- Travel Policy: Raymond Bartlett and his travel team continue to collaborate with the Faculty Senate travel policy subcommittee to resolve issues.

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Interim Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Interim Vice President for Research: [Claudia Neuhauser](#)

Interim VP Claudia Neuhauser reported on the following items:

- DoR is currently tweaking their systems and faculty should begin seeing an increase in DoR response time.
- Research Forum on transmittals will be held February 24th.
- Continued progress on Core Facilities
- There will be funding for translational research.

First Reading of Senate Constitution Amendments by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Vallabh Das](#)

FGC Chair Vallabh Das gave the first reading of proposed amendments to the Senate Constitution (see enclosed Appendix A to view amendments). There were no questions or comments after the reading. A second reading of the proposed changes will take place at the March Senate meeting.

Report from and Discussion by Faculty Senate President: [David Shattuck](#)

FS Pres. David Shattuck reported on the following items:

- Recognition of Faculty Senate Website Development Team
 - FS President David Shattuck acknowledged the group of individuals who initiated the overhaul of the Faculty Senate website.

Co-Lead Vera Hutchison
 Co-Lead Lee McWilliams
 Ferenc Bunta
 Paul Butler
 Gregorio Gomez
 Silva Leiser
 Amaury Lendasse

FS Pres. Shattuck asked the senators to give thanks to the group with a warm applause.

- FS Pres. Shattuck clarified a statement he was quoted on in a recent Houston Chronicle article. He was quoted along the lines of “faculty shouldn’t disagree.” Dr. Shattuck said he was wrong to say this and that faculty should express their opinions.
- Faculty Salaries: The BFC and FAC Subcommittee are working on this issue. Dr. Shattuck will speak at the Feb. 23rd Board of Regents (BoR) meeting about faculty salaries.
- Travel Policy: There’s a collaborative process on-going between the BFC-FAC Subcommittee and the SVP for Administration & Finance to help resolve some of the travel policy issues.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Bret Detillier asked when the reapportionment of ENGR and TECH senators (due to college merger) will take place. FS Pres. Shattuck responded that the merger will need to be approved by the Board of Regents, but he wasn’t sure which BoR meeting this approval will occur. However, when the merger is approved, the FGC will oversee the reapportionment of ENGR and TECH senators (and the rest of senators) once the merger is finalized.

New Business

None

Announcements

Door Prize: Senator Jim Briggs was the recipient of two complimentary tickets to “Shakespeare in Love” which were generously sponsored by the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts.

UH Public Art Field Trip: FS Pres. Shattuck announced that there will be two tours led by docents, Lauren Cross and Mike Guidry after the meeting ends. Senators interested in the tours were asked to stay after the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Appendix A

Faculty Senate

Constitutional Amendments

2/15/2023

Presentation and First Reading



UH Faculty Senate

Start date of Senate Leaders

- Currently, senate leadership including EC assume power at September meeting of the senate.
- This is too late since semester is well underway, committees have already begun their work and some EC members from previous group may have left the senate at the end of their term.
- **Proposal:** Specify an earlier fixed start date for senate president, president-elect and senate EC. Suggested date is **August 1**



Article Three--Executive Committee

Section One--The Executive Committee shall consist of the president-elect, the president, the immediate past-president, and the secretary of the Faculty Senate, two members elected by the Senate, the chair of the Faculty Governance Committee, and the chairs of Senate standing committees. The president of the Faculty Senate shall act as presiding officer of the Executive Committee, and the secretary of the Faculty Senate shall act as the secretary of the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve one-year terms. **All members of the executive committee including the president and president-elect will serve in their roles from August 1 of the year of election through July 31 of the following year.**



UH Faculty Senate

President-elect candidates pool

- President-elect identifies at least two possible candidates for next president-elect position and submits their names to FGC by March 31.
- Constitution mandates that those senators whose terms are about to expire and have not been re-elected by May 31 cannot run for president-elect.
- Effectively this means that 1/3 of the senate is excluded from being eligible for president-elect.



President-elect candidates pool

- **Proposal:** Remove the requirement for one more year of term remaining; senators may run for president-elect in the final year of their senate term.
- **Proposal:** Clarify that special elections must be held to fill seat vacated by president-elect.
- Note: Constitution does not place “current senator” requirement on the FS President and allows the term of FS President to be automatically extended for two years. This same facility is now extended to president-elect.



Article Four--Faculty Governance Committee

- *Section Five*--Except as provided elsewhere, the Faculty Governance Committee shall oversee the election of all Faculty Senate members and its officers. By the April meeting of the Senate, the committee shall present two nominations for the positions of president-elect and secretary, and four nominations for the two at-large positions on the executive committee. The committee shall also present fourteen nominees to fill the twelve elective positions on the Faculty Governance Committee. Following the presentation of the slate, the chair of the committee shall call for additional nominations to be made from the floor. Senators whose term of office is about to expire and who have not been re-elected to an additional term by May 31st are eligible for election to the Faculty Governance Committee and **as president-elect**, but not the other positions. The election shall take place via electronic balloting after completion of the slate and prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate.



Article One--Membership

Section Six--Regular elections for a Senate seat shall be held a minimum of three months prior to the start of the new term. The Faculty Governance Committee will run each college election and shall certify the results of such elections to the secretary of the Faculty Senate.

Special elections to fill unexpired Senate terms shall be held within 60 days after a senator has resigned **or has been elected to role of president-elect**. The months of June, July, and August shall not be used in computing the 60-day period. Unexpired terms exceeding three months may be filled only by election. Unexpired terms of less than three months may be filled temporarily by an individual appointed by either the dean of the college or a college governance organization, at the end of which time a successor will be elected.

Section Seven--Members of the Senate shall be eligible for reelection **unless currently serving as president or president-elect**.



UH Faculty Senate

Clarifying voting privileges

- In the proposed changes, position of president-elect, president and immediate past-president are not dictated by senator term duration and special elections are held to fill their college spot.
- To eliminate over-representation of the college/unit, these three individuals should not have general voting privileges unless mandated by Robert's rules.
- **Proposal:** Clarify voting rights for President-elect, President, and Immediate Past-president.



Article Six--Meetings and Voting

Section Nine – Voting privileges for president, president-elect and immediate past-president are different from other senators and follow certain principles.

- The president, president-elect and immediate past-president may not vote on any general senate matters; however by virtue of being the chair of the senate, the president may vote to break a tied vote in faculty senate meetings, and the immediate past-president may vote to break a tied vote in the Faculty Governance Committee.
- The president-elect and immediate past-president retain their voting privileges on matters within the executive committee; however, by virtue of being the chair of the executive committee, the president may vote in the executive committee to break a tied vote.



UH Faculty Senate

Bylaws – Section Two

Duties of President:

- Be a **non-voting** ex officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Senate.

Duties of President-Elect:

- Be a **non-voting** ex officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Senate, and act as liaison between these committees and the president.



Questions?



UH Faculty Senate