



Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate President David Shattuck called the April 19, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone. FS Pres. David Shattuck asked everyone to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of the recent and tragic deaths of two students. He also urged everyone to consider what each individual can do to create a culture of care within the UH community.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (110)

ARCH: J. Feng, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
ARTS: R. Bush, J. Derges, J. Evans, S. Matijcio, D. Robinson, T. Van Kekerix
BUS: C. Becker, B. Carlin, P. Kumar, H. Lin, A. Lish, M. Murray
EDU: C. Arbona, B. Davis, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee, V. Rangel
ENGR: D. Burleson, M. Burns, C. Chang, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, D. Litvinov, H. Love, F. Merchant, Y. Mo, J. Rao, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, X. Yuan
HON: D. Gish, D. Price
HRM: Y. Koh, C. Taylor
LAW: K. Brem
CLASS: E. Alemán, K. Anderson, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, L. Camaj, P. Chakrabarti, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, M. Cuesta, H. Glass, M. Goldberg, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, A. Pegoda, S. Scarrow, C. Sisk, C. Tamber-Rosenau, A. Viana, D. Womble, Z. Xiao, L. Zhu
LIB: K. Creelman, T. Davis-Van Atta, V. Douglas, M. Warren
COM: G. Gomez, K. Pilkinton
NSM: M. Almus, K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, A. Caglar, R. Capuano, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, L. Farmer, S. Gilbertson, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, M. Papadakis, D. Pattison, J. Subhlok, A. Vershynina, B. Xhabli, J. Yang
COM: G. Gomez, K. Pilkinton
CON: C. Brohard, P. Schrader
OPT: V. Das, S. Modi, J. O'Brien, J. Porter
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, A. Marwaha, D. Thornton, G. Udugamasooriya
HSPA: D. Engster
RES CTRS: S. Chung
RES FAC: O. Bannova
GCSW: S. Ali

MEMBERS ABSENT: (34)

ARTS: R. Koontz
BUS: S. Basu, N. Celly, J. Porra
EDU: S. Brower, A. Peters-Hawkins
ENGR: A. Conklin, J. Conrad, K. Grigoriadis, A. Lendasse, D. Liu, M. Robertson
GHL: P. Guchait, T. Legendre, J. Madera
LAW: D. Fagundes, J. Nelson, E. Trujillo
CLASS: J. Babcock, M. Cottingham, P. Gutierrez, D. Papell, E. Simas, A. Viana
LIB: S. Thompson, A. Wu
NSM: J. Brgoch, T. Gill

OPT: R. Manny
PHA: M. Trivedi
RES CTRS: S. Chung
GCSW: S. Narendorf

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), Monique Baucham (Institutional Research), Diane Chase (Academic Affairs), 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), Claudia Neuhauser (Div. of Research), Brenda Robles (Academic Affairs), Jason Smith (Community & Govt. Relations), Adam Thrasher (CLASS/HHP), Weihang Zhu (ENGR)

Approval of Minutes: March 22, 2023 Meeting

Minutes of the March 22, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

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 reported on the following items:

- Legislative session ends on May 31, 2023
- Budgets have passed on both the Senate and House. A conference committee will be formed to figure out the difference of the two versions. Jason gave a brief overview of the budget process & a few details of higher education items. Exact budgets won't be known until a month later (finalization will occur a few days before Labor Day weekend).
- UH request for a state-funded \$1B endowment has been passed by the Senate and the House.
- The House appropriated \$3.5B and the Senate appropriated \$2.5B in which UH and other TX universities will benefit (Texas Tech, Texas State, & University of North Texas). From this measure, UH would see an additional \$40-\$50M of revenue/year to be used for UH's research endeavors. This package will most likely pass, but will require voters to vote in the November 2023 constitutional amendment election.
- Senate Bills 16 (CRT), 17 (DEI), 18 (Tenure):
 - SB 16 has passed the Senate
 - SB 17 and 18 hasn't been passed by the Senate. Jason Smith is trying to educate legislators on the impact of the bills. He also plans to send a system-wide communication about language changes to the bills.

Q&A session followed.

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](#)

SVP Diane Chase gave her spring 2023 report.

- Impressions
 - Undergraduate Research
- Progress – New degrees approved
 - UHS Board of Regents
 - B.S. Integrated Studies
 - Help students (esp. undecided) to find a pathway to graduation more quickly and for students who have multiple interests to merge into one degree program.
 - B.S. Atmospheric Science
 - Ph.D. Computer Engineering

- Graduate & Professional Studies Committee
 - Doctorate of Global Hospitality Leadership
 - M.S. Global Business Leadership
 - M.S. Real Estate
 - M.S. Healthcare Leadership
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - Doctorate of Business Administration
- Progress – Cougar Textbook Access Program Expanded
 - 52,454 students in pilot program
 - \$2.9M in savings from pilot program
 - \$6.4M in projected savings per semester
 - \$154 in average saving per student

Provost gave kudos to the team who coordinated this program.

- The Path Forward
 - Student Success
 - Six-year Graduation Rate
 - Currently at 63% (goal to get to 70%)
 - UH Undergraduate Success and Enrollment Services initiated a Stop Out campaign in fall 2022 to reach out to students who didn't continue their education at UH (able to get 523 students to return). The campaign has been expanded with the goal to reach out to 5,433 students.
 - Gateway to Completion Course Redesign
 - Work on "bottleneck" courses
 - Early Alerts
 - Using predictive analytics to identify students at-risk
 - Graduate School
 - Fall 2022 Enrollment
 - Numbers are up, but will continue to work on improving graduate enrollment
 - Research
 - Research Expenditures – Current Status and Goal (comparative data) – Goal of \$400M
 - How Do We Get There?
 - Recruitment of research-intensive faculty members (i.e., Presidential Frontier Faculty and ASPIRES faculty)
 - Emphasis on large multidisciplinary grants focused in our major research thrust areas that include expertise from STEM, social sciences, arts and humanities.
 - Continued support for large proposal development through Division of Research
 - Continued development of Core Facilities and Shared Equipment to support the faculty research enterprise.
 - Faculty Support
 - Signature FED Programming
 - Faculty Academic-Writing Community Training (FACT) Program
 - Faculty Certifications and Training
 - College Highlights (examples of one highlight from each college)
 - Faculty Awards
 - Faculty Excellence Awards, 6 p.m., May 3, UH Hilton

Provost Chase thanked the Faculty Senate for being an amazing group and for being hospitable towards her during first few months at UH.

Q&A session followed.

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:

- Construction Projects:
 - UH Hilton expansion and John O'Quinn Law Center were completed.
 - Student Hub is underway
 - Innovation Hub – planning stages
 - Discussions on a possible addition of 2K residential beds on campus (related to the Moody Towers project)
 - Centennial Plaza and plan: UH will be further transformed in the next five years
 - Cullen Blvd construction – target completion date is the end of July 2023
 - Metro Rapid Transit Project – slated to begin January 2025. UH Planning Taskforce continues to work with Metro to address campus concerns.

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

VP Claudia Neuhauser reported on the following items:

- DoR Staffing:
 - Animal Care Operations (AC): Hired a new veterinarian and two animal care assistant positions. In the process of making an offer to a veterinary technician.
 - Research Integrity & Oversight Office - have not received any applications.
 - Office of Grants & Contracts – majority of positions are filled (need to fill three more)
- Core Facilities:
 - Digital Humanities: Offering a workshop in June with badges
 - Mass Spectrometry facility is up and running. In the process of establishing as service center.
 - Electron Microscopy facility: Request for BoR approval to purchase a major of piece of equipment. The hope is to open the facility early next year.
 - Working on two other core facilities: 1) battery research and 2) advanced manufacturing
- DoR Workshops:
 - Team Science, scheduled next Wednesday
- May 4th Air Force Scientific Research Visit: Open presentation
- May 11th – Data Management & Research Misconduct Workshop (in conjunction with University Libraries & Data Science Institute)

Presentation of Spring 2023 Faculty Senate Election Results, 2023 UH Grievance Committee Slate & 2023 Senate Officer Candidate Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Vallabh Das](#)

FGC Chair Vallabh Das announced the following items:

UH Grievance Committee Election Slate:

Tenured/Tenure-Track Candidates

- **Jennifer Chauvot**, Education

- **Jeronimo Cortina**, CLASS
- **Jaye Derrick**, CLASS
- **Jaana Porra**, Business
- **Christophe Ribelayga**, Optometry
- **Navin Varadarajan**, Engineering

Non-Tenure Track Candidates

- **Keith Butcher**, Education
- **Anita Gostovic**, Optometry
- **Holley Love**, Engineering
- **Nouhad Rizk**, NSM
- **Quinn Valier**, Honors

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Voting will be conducted online and eligible faculty will be notified by email when the election has launched.

Senator Election Results:

- **ARTS (At-Large)**: Steven Matijcio
- **BUS (GPSC)**: Yinliang Tan
- **BUS (RSC)**: Bin Li
- **ENGR (GPSC)**: Yan Yao
- **ENGR (RSC)**: Shailendra Joshi
- **ENGR (UC)**: Holley Love
- **ENGR (At-Large)**: Steven Pei
- **GHL (GPSC)**: Juan Madera
- **GHL (RSC)**: Minwoo Lee
- **CLASS (At-Large)**: Ferenc Bunta
- **CLASS (At-Large)**: Michael Cottingham
- **CLASS (GPSC)**: Adam Thrasher
- **CLASS (UC)**: Carla Ferrell
- **CLASS (UC)**: Julia Kleinheider
- **CLASS (UC)**: Vincent Ng
- **CLASS (UC)**: Andrew Pegoda
- **CLASS/COMD (At-Large)**: Anny Castilla-Earls
- **CLASS/ECON (At-Large)**: Vikram Maheshri
- **CLASS/HIST (At-Large)**: Kelly Hopkins
- **CLASS/POLS (At-Large)**: Brandon Rottinghaus
- **CLASS/SOC (At-Large)**: Stella Grigorian
- **LIB (UC)**: Veronica Douglas
- **LIB (At-Large)**: Leonard Martin
- **LIB (At-Large)**: Ariana Santiago
- **COM (GPSC)**: Omolola Adepoju
- **COM (At-Large)**: David Curtis
- **NSM (RSC)**: Randy Lee
- **NSM (UC)**: Lisa Farmer
- **NSM (UC)**: Greg Morrison
- **NSM (At-Large)**: Jim Briggs
- **NSM/EAS (At-Large)**: Regina Capuano
- **NSM/MATH (At-Large)**: Manos Papadakis
- **CON (At-Large)**: Lee McWilliams

- **OPT (GPSC):** Tarsis Ferreira
- **OPT (At-Large):** Christophe Ribelayga
- **PHA (At-Large):** Brad McConnell
- **HSPA (At-Large):** Jessica Gottlieb
- **TECH (UC):** Bret Detillier
- **TECH (UC):** Medhat El Nahas
- **TECH (At-Large):** Mequanint Moges

FGC Chair Vallabh Das welcomed the newly-elected and re-elected senators.

Senate Officer Slate:

President-elect Candidates

- Arturo Hernandez, CLASS
- Holley Love, ENGR

Secretary Candidates

- Julia Kleinheider, CLASS
- Jason Porter, OPT

Members-at-large Candidates

- Lindita Camaj, CLASS
- Donna Pattison, NSM
- April Peters-Hawkins, EDU
- Jason Porter, OPT
- Santi Thompson, LIB

COIA Delegate Candidates

- Kevin Haubrick, CLASS
- Randy Lee, NSM

Faculty Governance Committee Candidates

- Ferenc Bunta, CLASS
- Christiana Chang, ENGR
- Diana Chow, PHA
- Kerry Creelman, LIB
- Bret Detillier, TECH
- Gregorio Gomez, COM
- Kristen Hassett, EDU
- Scott Gilbertson, NSM
- Rex Koontz, ARTS
- Ruth Manny, OPT
- Jaana Porra, BUS
- Donna Pattison, NSM
- Daniel Price, HON
- Patricia Schrader, CON

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Voting will be conducted online and senators will be notified by email when the election has launched.

President-elect Candidate Speeches

Drs. Hernandez and Love gave their candidate speeches.

End-of-Year At-Large Committee Chair Reports

- a. **Budget & Facilities Committee:** BFC Chair Jim Briggs
- b. **Community & Government Relations Committee:** CGRC Chair Doug Thornton
- c. **Faculty Affairs Committee:** FAC Chair Ferenc Bunta

Each committee chair report focused on the responsibilities of the committee, accomplishments during the year, and future/on-going activities.

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

In light of TX Legislature SB Bills, FS President David Shattuck announced that he would to form a taskforce to draft a resolution to be brought to the Executive Committee during their May 3rd meeting. He asked for volunteers to serve on this taskforce. The goal is to draft a meaningful resolution that will communicate faculty values in an effective, positive, and constructive way.

Meet and Greet Senate officer candidates at the Faculty Café (April 26th), 12pm.

Door Prize: Two complimentary tickets to UH Ensemble Dance Works generously provided by the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts.

Cougar Softball: "Bark in the Park" on Sunday, March 23rd, 12pm, attendees can bring their dogs during the game.

March of Dimes event this Sunday, March 23rd.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.