

**Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Susie Gronseth called the January 24, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (101)**

ARCH:	J. Feng, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
ARTS:	R. Bush, D. Robinson, T. Van Kekerix
BUS:	B. Carlin, B. Khumawala, B. Li, H. Lin, M. Murray, Y. Tan
EDU:	C. Arbona, B. Davis, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, A. Peters-Hawkins, Virginia Rangel
ENGR:	G. Aksu, D. Burleson, M. Burns, C. Chang, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, T. Liao, D. Liu, S. Long, H. Love, M. Moges, D. Shattuck, Y. Yao
GHL:	P. Guchait, M. Lee
HON:	D. Price
CLASS:	W. Breslin, F. Bunta, L. Camaj, A. Castilla-Earls, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, H. Glass, P. Gutierrez, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, V. Maheshri, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, A. Thrasher, D. Womble, L. Zhu
LAW:	K. Brem
LIB:	K. Creelman, T. Davis-Van Atta, V. Douglas, L. Martin, A. Santiago, S. Thompson, M. Warren
COM:	O. Adepoju, D. Curtis, G. Gomez, B. King, K. Pilkinton
NSM:	M. Almus, K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, J. Brgoch, R. Capuano, A. Czader, L. Farmer, A. Medrano, G. Morrison, R. Meisel, D. Pattison, A. Vershynina, B. Xhabli, J. Yang
CON:	Lee McWilliams, P. Schrader
OPT:	T. Ferreira, J. O'Brien, J. Porter, C. Ribelayga
PHA:	D. Chow, B. McConnell, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya
HSPA:	C. Bronk
RES FAC:	O. Bannova
GCSW:	S. Ali, S. Narendorf

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (39)**

ARCH:	D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou
ARTS:	J. Derges, R. Koontz, S. Matijcio
BUS:	S. Basu, A. Lish, J. Porra, Y. Zhao
EDU:	S. Brower
ENGR:	S. Joshi, A. Lendasse, D. Litvinov, F. Merchant, S. Pei, H. Rifai, X. Yuan
GHL:	Y. Koh, T. Legendre, J. Madera
HON:	D. Gish
LAW:	D. Fagundes
CLASS:	J. Babcock, P. Chakrabarti
NSM:	B. Bodmann, A. Caglar, B. Dauwalder, S. Gilbertson, T. Gill, E. Harth, T. R. Lee
OPT:	R. Manny
PHA:	J. Hao, A. Marwaha
RES CTRS:	S. Chung

**GUESTS:** Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Monique Baucham (Academic Affairs), Diane Z. Chase (SVP & Provost, Academic Affairs), Bradley Eanes (Academic Affairs), Mike Emery (Univ. Communication), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Admin. & Finance/Academic Affairs), Lisa Holdeman (VP, Marketing & Communication), Athena Jackson (Dean, University Libraries), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, UH President's Office), Lucy Kehinde (Optometry), Renu Khator (President, UH), Sarah Larsen (Dean, UH Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost, Undergrad Student Success), Claudia Neuhauser (Interim VC/VP for Research), Jeff Palmer (General Counsel), Brenda Robles (Academic Affairs), Kathryn Tart (Dean, College of Nursing)

**Approval of Minutes:** December 13, 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting

The minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

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

President Khator wished everyone a happy new year and a good spring semester. She also congratulated the Faculty Senate on a successful conference.

Pres. Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- Changing landscape of higher education
- Budget Deficits at universities (private and public) across the nation.
  - Challenges:
    - Relevancy of a college education, financial challenges, flat enrollment, etc.
- SB17 and SB 18 implementation on January 1, 2024
- Texas Legislative Hearings convene in May 2024
  - Committees will discuss issues that were on the last agenda.
- Enrollment was flat in the fall 2023 term. UH needs to work on retention vs. enrolling more new students.
- Pres. Khator traveled to India to meet with seven universities to discuss energy collaboration. These universities have research funding and are seeking collaborators.
- Athletics:
  - UH Men's Basketball has been doing well: currently ranked #1 defensive team and ranked #2 offensive team.
  - Baseball season has started.

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 Academic Affairs and Provost:** [Diane Z. Chase](#) (unable to attend)

**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 wished senators and guests a happy new year.

Mr. Bartlett reported on the following items:

- A UH emblem was installed on top of the General Services building. It is noticeable and can be seen from an airplane: great for UH branding and visibility.
- Budget planning underway:
  - All divisions will be planning the FY 2025 budget, which will be presented at the May Board of Regents meeting.

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

VP Claudia Neuhauser reported on the following items:

- Core Facilities:
  - Microscopy facility is moving along
- DoR Office:
  - Turnaround time is getting faster
  - Redesigning the invoice process
- NIH Update:
  - Faculty must submit proposals through a required portal
  - AI tools (use only NSF and NIH AI tools)
- Events:
  - Grant proposal workshop (in-person only event)
  - TX DOT presentation on February 29, 2024

**Presentation and Discussion on SB17 & SB18 – Where are we now? [Jeff Palmer, Deputy General Counsel](#) and [Lucy Kehinde Darnell, Clinical Associate Professor, Optometry](#)**

A brief recap was provided on a break-out session held at the January 12<sup>th</sup> conference.

- New Legislation from 2023 Legislation Session, Jeff Palmer. Legal Affairs
  - SB17 relating to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives at public institutions of higher education
    - Mr. Palmer listed what the University was not allowed to do regarding the implementation of SB17 in areas such as: hiring/employment, promoting policies/procedures, and conducting training programs/activities.
    - He also informed the Senate of exclusions to SB17 (i.e., academic course instruction, data collection) and answered questions prepared by senators.
- Research, Claudia Neuhauser, Division of Research
  - Dr. Neuhauser explained what faculty can do with regard to targeting certain populations for research.
- Putting SB17 into practice, Lucy Kehinde, College of Optometry
  - Dr. Kehinde gave an example of talks on what her college can and can't do concerning DEI

Q&A session followed.

FS Pres. Gronseth said the link to the FAQs will be posted in the chat. She thanked Jeff Palmer and Lucy Kehinde for their presentation. Dr. Gronseth encouraged senators to share takeaway notes with their colleagues.

**January 12, 2024 Faculty Conference Recap by Community & Government Relations Committee Chair: [Ann Christensen](#)**

Dr. Christensen said the conference was successful and gave a brief overview of the conference activities.

She also thanked everyone who worked on putting the event together.

**Proposed Constitution Amendment Vote Results presented by Faculty Senate Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [David Shattuck](#)**

FGC Chair Shattuck announced the vote results of the proposed Constitution amendments:

- 94 votes in favor, 3 votes opposed, 137 senators were eligible to vote
- Approved amendments will go into effect immediately
- Next Steps:
  - Reapportionment of at-large committees
  - Launch spring 2024 election cycle: Call for nominations > Request to accept nominations > Voting (cycle ends by March 31)

**Report from and Discussion by UH Faculty Senate President: [Susie Gronseth](#)**

- The February 14<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting will take place possibly at the Bates Law Building due to the Board of Regents meeting being rescheduled to Wed., February 21. This meeting will focus on Mental Health (CAPS) and the Provost Office will present changes regarding the APR and EPE policies (compliance with SB18).
- The Faculty Senate Service Award (Lifetime Award) call for nominations will be forthcoming. The FAC's Faculty Senate Service Award subcommittee is coordinating this award.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment:** 1:09 p.m.