



UH Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate President Susie Gronseth called the May 8, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (98)

ARCH:	J. Feng, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
ARTS:	R. Bush, R. Koontz, D. Robinson
BUS:	B. Khumawala, H. Lin, A. Lish, M. Murray, Y. Tan
EDU:	C. Arbona, S. Brower, B. Davis, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, A. Peters-Hawkins, V. Rangel
ENGR:	G. Aksu, D. Burleson, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, S. Joshi, S. Long, H. Love, F. Merchant, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, Y. Yao, X. Yuan
GHL:	Y. Koh
HON:	D. Price
CLASS:	W. Breslin, F. Bunta, A. Castilla-Earls, P. Chakrabarti, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, V. Maheshri, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, A. Thrasher, D. Womble
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, B. King, K. Pilkinton
NSM:	M. Almus, K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, J. Brgoch, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, L. Farmer, S. Gilbertson, T. Gill, R. Lee, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, D. Pattison, A. Vershynina, J. Yang
CON:	C. Brohard, P. Schrader
OPT:	R. Manny
PHA:	D. Chow, J. Hao, A. Marwaha, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya
HSPA:	C. Bronk
GCSW:	S. Narendorf
RES CTRS:	S. Chung
RES FAC:	O. Bannova

MEMBERS ABSENT: (41)

ARTS:	J. Derges, T. Van Kekerix
BUS:	S. Basu, B. Carlin, B. Li, J. Porra, Y. Zhao
ENGR:	M. Burns, J. Evans, A. Lendasse, T. Liao, D. Litvinov, D. Liu, S. Pei
GHL:	P. Guchait, M. Lee, T. Legendre, J. Madera
LAW:	D. Fagundes
CLASS:	J. Babcock, L. Camaj, M. Cottingham, P. Gutierrez, L. Zhu
NSM:	A. Caglar, R. Capuano, E. Harth, G. Morrison, E. Papadakis, J. Subhlok, B. Xhabli
COM:	G. Gomez
PHA:	B. McConnell
GCSW:	S. Ali

GUESTS: Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Jim Briggs (Assoc. Provost, Faculty Affairs), Diane Z. Chase (SVP & Provost, Academic Affairs), Bradley Eanes (Admin. & Finance/Academic Affairs), Mike Emery (Univ. Marketing & Communications), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Admin. & Finance/Academic Affairs), Lisa Holdeman (VP Marketing & Comm), M. Johnson (Chief of Staff, President's Office), Renu Khator (President, UH), Sarah Larsen (Dean, Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost & Dean, Undergrad Student Success), Erica Lopez (LIB), David Mazella (CLASS), Claudia Neuhauser (Interim VC/VP for Research), Janae Williams (PHYS)

Approval of Minutes: April 17, 2024 Meeting

The April 17th minutes were approved as distributed.

2024 Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Service (Lifetime Achievement) by Faculty Senate President: [Susie Gronseth](#)

Dr. Stella Grigorian (SOC/CLASS) and Dr. Michael Murray (DISC/BUS) were honorably acknowledged for their long-time service to the Faculty Senate. They were presented with certificates by FS President Susie Gronseth and applauded for their dedication.

FS President Gronseth announced that Dr. Ruth Manny was the recipient of the 2024 Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Service. The Faculty Senate acknowledged and applauded Senator Ruth Manny's 25+ years of dedication to the Senate, share governance, and the faculty community.

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

Pres. Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- Commencement:
 - Nineteen ceremonies will take place. Pres. Khator thanked the faculty for their work in helping students graduate.
 - 6655 students are set to graduate.
- Next Tuesday, May 14th, Dr. Khator will testify in front of the Senate Committee on Higher Education on:
 - SB17 (DEI)
 - Anti-Semitism
 - Free speech
- May 15th Board of Regents meeting at UHD
 - Report on Tenure
 - Annual report on SB17 (DEI legislation)
- Managing Protests
 - Chief Moore, FS Executive Committee, and senior administration discussed management of potential protests during the May 3rd FS Executive Committee meeting.
 - May 8th protest encampment occurred; SVP Raymond Bartlett will update the Faculty Senate shortly.

Q&A Session: None

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 reported on the following items:

- 2.0 Commission work will begin after commencements
- SB18: Provost Office is working the kinks out of the policy to be compliant.
 - 829 tenured and tenure-track faculty would have been impacted.
 - 15 faculty will be impacted.
- Provost Chase thanked the senators for their hard work, especially during the busy end of the semester.

Q&A Session: None

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:

- Protest Encampment:
 - Encampment was set up overnight at Butler Plaza (60 people); UHPD gave three verbal warnings before removing the encampment at 9:30am; Protesters were allowed to continue protest peacefully at UH. Raymond Bartlett said that encampments are prohibited on state property by state law.
- Commencements: Students and guests' safety is priority. Tremendous planning was done prior to commencements.
- Hurricane Season (June 1, 2024): Planning has been underway. Weather experts are predicting an above average hurricane season. SVP Bartlett encouraged everyone to assess their preparedness.
- Centennial Landscape Campus Task Force met in April for the last time. Raymond Bartlett thanked everyone involved in this work and looks forward to the campus enhancements being implemented.
- Over eighteen major capital construction and renovation projects are ongoing: completion is scheduled between 2024 and 2027.
 - RAD – Retail Auxilliary & Dining center opened in limited capacity in spring 2024). The second phase is being built out and more retail will be established by fall 2024.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Ann Christensen asked for clarification on how many protesters there were at the encampment. SVP Raymond Bartlett responded that there were sixty protesters.

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:

- New Policy (Interim): Foreign Talent Recruitment Program policy: On May 20, 2024, federal certification requirement that NSF proposals submitted are part of a foreign talent recruitment program (maligned or not). On August 9th all other agencies will follow to certify proposals regarding foreign talent recruitment. Dr. Neuhauser urged faculty to be familiar with this policy.
- Next Tuesday, May 14th, DoR will host a research forum. A topic of particular interest is that the NIH will change its whole review process.
- Core Facilities:
 - Purchase TEM for Electron Microscopy Facility (January 2025)
 - Imaging Facility – expanding the scope (i.e., adding a surgical suite)
- June 7th, AI Conference, there will be funding opportunities available. Everyone from all the disciplines is welcomed.

Q&A Session: None

Presentation of UH Grievance Committee Election Results & Senate Officer Election Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [David Shattuck](#)

UH Grievance Committee Election Results:

The Faculty Senate Faculty Governance Committee certified the UH Faculty Grievance Committee election results on April 30, 2024. The following candidates were elected to the following positions:

Tenured Faculty:

- **Jaye Derrick**, CLASS
- **Leigh Leasure**, CLASS
- **Luca Pollonini**, ENGR
- **Samina Salim**, PHA
- **Kristi Santi**, EDUC

Non-Tenure Faculty:

- **Justin Burris**, Education
- **Julia Kleinheider**, CLASS
- **Joe Wheat**, Optometry

Motion from the Faculty Governance Committee: [David Shattuck](#)

The Faculty Governance Committee moves to make an exception to the Faculty Senate Constitution, Article Four, Section Five, where it says that ‘the committee shall present two nominations for the position(s) of president-elect.’ The exception is to make only one nomination for the president-elect position this year. There will be a call for additional nominations to be made from the floor at the May 8, 2024, meeting of the Faculty Senate.

This motion comes from a standing committee of the Faculty Senate and does not require a second.

There was no discussion when FGC Chair Dave Shattuck opened the floor.

Vote: The Faculty Senate voted in favor of the motion (2 opposed online).

Presentation of 2024 Senate Officer and Faculty Governance Committee Election Slates: [David Shattuck](#)

The Faculty Governance Committee met on Wednesday, April 10th, and again on Friday, April 26th, to certify and discuss the Faculty Senate officer and Faculty Governance Committee slates.

- President-elect Candidate
 - Dan Price, HON
- Secretary Candidates
 - Lisa Farmer, NSM
 - Michelle Ivey, CLASS
 - Tony Liao, ENGR
- Member-at-Large
 - Veronica Douglas, LIB
 - Arturo Hernandez, CLASS

- Donna Pattison, NSM
- Brad McConnell, PHA
- FGC Candidates
 - Omolola Adepoju, COM
 - Gulin Aksu, ENGR
 - Lisa Farmer, NSM
 - Dietmar Froehlich, ARCH
 - Kristen Hassett, EDU
 - Kevin Haubrick, CLASS
 - Julia Kleinheider, CLASS
 - Yoon Koh, GHF
 - Rex Koontz, ARTS
 - Ruth Manny, OPT
 - Michael Murray, BUS
 - Kimberly Pilkinton, COM
 - Jason Porter, OPT
 - Ariana Santiago, LIB

There were no additional nominations from the floor for each of these positions.

Senators will be notified via email when the election has been launched.

President-Elect Candidate Speeches

Senator Dan Price delivered his candidate speech to the Faculty Senate.

End-of-Year Committee Chair Reports:

- **Budget & Facilities Committee:** BFC Chair Patrick Peters
- **Community & Government Relations Committee:** CGRC Chair Ann Christensen
- **Faculty Affairs Committee:** FAC Chair Arturo Hernandez
- **Faculty Governance Committee:** FGC Chair David Shattuck
- **Graduate & Professional Studies Committee:** GPSC Chair Anna Vershynina
- **Research & Scholarship Committee:** RSC Chair Diana Chow
- **Undergraduate Committee:** UC Chair Michael Murray

Senate committee chairs gave a brief presentation that focused on: their committee responsibilities, activities & tasks achieved during the 23-24 academic year and future tasks/goals to strive towards. Each committee chair thanked their committee members for their hard work and dedication to shared governance.

Q&A session followed.

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

FS Pres. Susie Gronseth reported on the following items:

- Faculty Climate Survey:
 - Received a 24% response rate thus far (50% completion goal), Extension deadline is May 14th (last deadline); Dr. Gronseth asked senators to encourage their colleagues to complete the survey. This survey mechanism is to help understand the important issues.
- Board of Regents Meeting (May 15), UH-Downtown: FS Pres. Gronseth will give her last remarks focusing on reaffirming the value of shared governance.
- Faculty Senate Dates:

- FS Pres. Gronseth thanked senators with terms ending July 31, 2024, for their service.
- Summer FS meetings are scheduled for only pressing issues.
- New leadership transition is effective August 1, 2024
- Next full FS meeting will be Sept. 18, 2024
 - Ceremonial officer transition
 - Acknowledgement of 23-24 EC Members

FS Pres. Susie Gronseth expressed her gratitude for serving as the FS President.

New Business

Sen. Bodmann mentioned that UHIT will install remote access on all UH-owned devices (i.e., tablets). He wanted senators to be aware of glitches after the transition.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.