

U N I V E R S I T Y *of* H O U S T O N

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL Minutes for September 24, 2008

A meeting of the University of Houston Undergraduate Council convened at 3:02 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, in room 220 of the E. Cullen Building.

Members Present: Bill Barnes, Betty Barr, Amanda Baumle, Roger Blakeney, Simon Bott, Lawrence Curry, William Dupré, Luces Faulkenberry, Sarah Fishman, Martha Haun, Debbie Hermann, Richard Kasschau, Iain Morrison, William Munson, Charles Peters, Melissa Pierson, Laurence Rapp, Michelangelo Sabatino (for John Zemanek Fall '08), Richard Scamell, Kevin Simon, John Snyder, Maria Soliño, Nina Tucci, Jerry Waite, Lawrence Williams, Djuana Young

Members Absent: Elaine Charlson, Agnes DeFranco, Catherine Hatfield, Stephen Huang, Christina Hughes, Partha Krishnamurthy, Norma Olvera, Rebecca Achee Thornton, Dana Wierzbicki,

Guests: Libby Barlow (IR), Myra Connolly (DOS), Patrick Daniel (LAS), Marguerite Hairston (APM), Kirk Shelton (Daily Cougar), Lesley Sisk (ENGR), Nia Soeharto (Measurement & Evaluation Center), Dan Wells (Faculty Senate)

Staff: Marsha Daly

I Call to Order; Minutes for 9/3/08

Council was called to order by Dr. Lawrence Williams at 3:02 p.m. Minutes from 9/3/08 were accepted.

II Announcements

A NOTE: All meetings are held in the President's Boardroom, #220 E. Cullen, unless otherwise noted.
Fall 2008 Meetings: 9/24/08, 10/22/08, 11/19/08, 12/10/08
Spring 2009 Meetings: 1/28/09, 2/25/09, 3/25/09, 4/22/09, 6/3/09, 7/8/09

B Undergraduate Council Web Address: <http://www.uh.edu/undergraduatecouncil/index.html>
Core Curriculum Website Address: <http://www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum/>
Undergraduate Studies Catalog Web Address: <http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/>

C E-mail listserves:

UNDERGRAD-COUNCIL@LISTSERV.UH.EDU
UC-DEGREE-PROGRAMS@LISTSERV.UH.EDU
UC-POLICIES-PROCEDURES@LISTSERV.UH.EDU
UC-CORE-CURRICULUM@LISTSERV.UH.EDU
UC-NEWS@LISTSERV.UH.EDU (Minutes only)

III Administration Representatives Reports:

A Spring 2009 Room Scheduling: Assignment of rooms was run differently in AdAstra.

B Hurricane Ike:

Students should carefully consider the consequences of dropping courses: Federal Financial Aid, Scholarships, Health Insurance, etc.

THECB is with us in the spirit of not having these Ws count in their limit of 6 Ws. How that is handled is being worked out.

If a student wishes to withdraw from one course, they should be directed to the Dean, not associate dean or an advisor.

If the student wishes to withdrawal from all courses they should be directed to Brian McKinney. Student Service Center 1 room 320.

IV PeopleSoft update: Debbie Hermann, Registrar.

Web addresses: <http://www.uh.edu/peoplesoft/>
<http://my.uh.edu>

“NR” Grades still outstanding:

Fall 2007 – 69 “NR” grades (61 are undergraduates)
Spring 2008 – 166 “NR” grades (115 are undergraduates)
Summer 2008 – 735 “NR” grades (174 are undergraduates)

Academic Standing will not run if there is an “NR” grade for a student.

Departments can run “NR” reports.

What will we do with those “NR” grades that don’t come in?

V Orientation Report:

In 2006 the consultant that studied our orientation program observed:

Reservation process was confusing
Testing was incomplete when students arrived for orientation
Orientation was optional
Schedule was overwhelming
Redundancy in speakers

The Orientation Task Force (OTF) was established as a result of the consultant’s report.

Agnes DeFranco and Myra Connolly co-chair the task force.

Fall 2007:

Reservations are now done online
Testing is completed online before students may register for classes
Orientation is mandatory

Meeting Handouts: Orientation Resource Guide (UC 9778 08F) and Preliminary Statistics for Fall 2008 Orientation (UC 9779 08F).

The mid-Fall Orientation was scheduled for the Friday before Hurricane Ike. It has been rescheduled to October 13-14.

Noted Improvements:

Math Placement Testing and TSI stops worked well this year.

Most students left campus registered for classes.

Evaluations were administered at the CougarOne card office, while they waited for their ID to print.

If colleges or departments was statistics specific to their area they should contact Patrick Daniel.

Plans for a follow-up survey are being made. Dr. Velez and Prof. Bott have offered time their freshmen classes for survey purposes.

The fee for orientation is added to the Fall fee bill.

\$120 for 2 day conference

\$60 for 1 day conference

This money supports the orientation program.

International students have a separate orientation.

A family program runs the same time as the student program. Most of the first morning of orientation parents and student spend together in sessions.

VI Committee Reports

A Academic Policies and Procedures Committee:

UC 9744 08S: Academic Policies and Procedures Committee Report 4/1/08 - Approved

UC 9773 08F: Class Scheduling Time Bands

Please share with your peers and give any feedback received to Prof. Bott.

Classes would be for 1.5 hours on Mon/Wed, Tue/Thur, or Fri/Sat.

Classes on one day for 3 hours would still be possible.

How would we handle 5 credit hour courses? Or other classes less than 3 credit hours?

This pattern works at community colleges and in rural areas.

Tier 1 institutions are not using this pattern currently.

THECB might have a concern about the last of classroom use on Fridays.

B Core Curriculum Committee: no report

C Degree Programs Committee – CBM003s:

UC 9776 08F: Degree Programs Committee – CBM003 Report 9/10/08 – Approved

D Degree Programs Committee – Programs: no report

VII FYI Documents:

A UC 9767 08F: FYI: IB credit for Math

B UC 9771 08F: FYI: CLEP credit for Accounting

C UC 9772 08F: FYI: AP credit for Art Portfolios

VIII Old Business/New Business:

Old:

Follow up report from the USD Task Group:

Eliminating USD complete is unlikely, but we can get the numbers down significantly.

Best practices at peer institutions are being collected and reviewed.

Undeclared students have the worst retention and graduation rates. Engaged students do much better.

Most USD students are there because they couldn't get into their major of choice, not because they chose to be USD.

Expansion of major offerings and alternative majors are being looked at.

“3 minor program”

How many majors do we have? Why isn't that enough?

New:

Cougars Helping Cougars:

Prof. Bott asked that UC members get the message out that there is food, clothing, toys, household items, etc. available to students, faculty, and staff impacted by Hurricane Ike. Donations are needed.
<http://www.uh.edu/about/offices/president/after-storm/cougars-care/>

IX Adjournment at 4:56 pm