



**Fall Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M. D. Anderson Library & via Microsoft Teams
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Vallabh Das called the February 16, 2022 the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded attendees of the hybrid meeting rules.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (103)

ARCH: G. Chow, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou
ARTS: N. Harren, R. Koontz, C. Meals, T. Morgulis, T. Van Kekerix
BUS: S. Basu, N. Celly, A. Lish, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee
ENGR: D. Burleson, C. Chang, J. Conrad, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, H. Love, Y. Mo, S. Pei, D. Shattuck, G. Song
HON: D. Gish, D. Price
HRM: Y. Koh, S. Sirsat, C. Taylor
LAW: K. Brem
CLASS: K. Anderson, A. Bencomo, F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, H. Glass, M. Goldberg, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, L. Maher, D. Papell, S. Pott, S. Scarrow, C. Sisk, C. Spitzmueller, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, J. Tolliver, Z. Xiao, L. Zhu
LIB: K. Creelman, T. Davis-Van Atta, S. Thompson, A. Wu
COM: G. Gomez, K. Jones, K. Rowland
NSM: M. Almus, B. Bodmann, J. Brgoch, J. Briggs, A. Caglar, R. Capuano, B. Dauwalder, S. Gilbertson, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, M. Nicol, D. Pattison, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne, B. Xhabli
CON: L. McWilliams, Pattie Schrader
OPT: D. Coates, V. Das, L. Frishman, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Obrien
PHA: D. Chow, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya
RES CTRS: S. Chung
RES FAC: O. Bannova
TECH: M. Burns, A. Conklin, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, M. Kidd, F. Merchant

MEMBERS ABSENT: (44)

ARCH: P. Peters, Z. Qureshi
ARTS: R. Bush, S. Matijcio, D. Politzer, K. Rigdon
BUS: C. Becker, P. Kumar, S. Werner
EDU: W. Fan, A. Peters
ENGR: D. Litvinov, M. Robertson, Y. Yao
HRM: T. Legendre, J. Madera
LAW: D. Fagundes, J. Nelson, E. Trujillo

CLASS: E. Alemán, R. Boul, L. Camaj, S. Deyle, E. Goodin-Mayeda, E. Simas, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic
LIB: V. Douglas
NSM: J. Brgoch, A. Czader, R. Forrest, S. Huang, M. Papadakis, Z. Ren
CON: C. Brohard
PHA: G. Cuny, R. Ghose
HSPA: D. Engster
GCSW: S. Ali, S. Narendorf
TECH: A. Lendasse, X. Yuan

VACANT SEATS: (4) BUS – 1 seat (At-Large); CLASS – 1 seat (At-Large), GCSW – 2 seats (At-large) & 1 GPSC seat

VISITORS: Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Monique Baucham (Director, Inst. Research), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Amr Elnashai (VC/VP, Research & Transfer Technology), Mike Emery (Sr. Director, Univ. Communications), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Finance & Administration), Lisa Holdeman (VC/VP, Univ. Marketing & Communication), Cathy Horn (Chair, ELPS/COE), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Presidents' Office), R. Krishnamoorti (Chief Energy Officer), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost/Dean, Undergraduate Affairs), Cindy Mejia (Chief of Staff, Provost Office), Emily Messa (Sr. AVP, Administration), Eduardo Reveles (ASL Interpreter), Paula Myrick Short (SVC/SVP, Academic Affairs & Provost), Marti Trummer-Cabrera (Asst. Director, CAPS)

Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2022 Meeting

The Senate approved the January 19, 2022 minutes as distributed.

Report from and Discussion with the Faculty Senate President: [Vallabh Das](#)

FS President Vallabh Das reported on the following items:

- Provost Short retirement acknowledgement:
 - FS Pres. Vallabh Das on behalf of the Faculty Senate body, leadership, and past presidents, he expressed deep appreciation for Provost Paula Short's dedication to working with the Faculty Senate. Additionally, the Senate Executive Committee will formally honor Dr. Short at the April Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting.
- FS Conference Update: Susie Gronseth, CGRC Chair
 - Due to technical difficulties, FS Pres. Das gave a brief update on the conference.
- Staff Workplace Policy:
 - Staff Council has been working with HR and SVP of Administration to create a new workplace policy to address staff shortages, compensation, and morale. The Faculty Senate has supported the Staff Council in this endeavor.
- GPSC Bylaw Revision Update
 - GPSC Bylaw Subcommittee (chaired by Dr. Jason Porter) completed the revisions to the bylaws. The amended version will be forwarded to the full committee for a vote.
- College of Technology Taskforce:
 - Provost Short has created a taskforce to plan the move of the College of Technology to Sugar Land. Dr. Kristin Hassett will be senate representative on this taskforce.
- BOR Meeting – February 24, 2022
 - FS Pres. Vallabh Das reminded senators of the Feb. 24th Board of Regents meeting. He encouraged senators to watch the livestream. The agenda and other meeting materials are posted in the BoR website.

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

Presentation by the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Paula Myrick Short](#)

Provost Paula Short presented the following updates.

- Enhanced Performance Evaluation Policy: Dr. Short gave a timeline of the creation process and next steps for the policy (i.e., create a final document structure).
- Presidential Frontier Faculty Program (PFF): A brief FY 22 Hiring Plan was presented.
 - 22 PFF positions posted, 2 positions approved for final offer, 16 positions approved to interview final candidates, and 4 positions are reviewing their candidate pools
- 50-in-5 Scholars: Three scholars will be highlighted at the Feb. 24th BoR Meeting.
 - David A. Berntsen, Therese A. Kosten, Ezemenari Obasi
- Accomplished Leaders Forum: Featuring Dr. Gilda Barabino, President of Olin College of Engineering on March 3 2022, 1pm-2:30pm (will be held virtually).

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 presented the following updates:

- COVID-19:
 - COVID leadership team continues to meet weekly (i.e., looking at national/local trends). The CDC is planning to update on face coverings. UH Travel guidelines remain the same.
 - The trend is that cases are lowering. UH is averaging eight cases per day.
- Capital Projects: Raymond Bartlett's team is working with the college deans (HSPA, COT, EDU, CLASS) regarding renovations to buildings.
- Labs: Lab Renovation Policy is going through campus feedback process.
- Facilities: SVP Bartlett has been meeting with the Budget & Facilities Committee (BFC) to discuss updates and concerns. FP&C has been making strides to improve customer service ("At your door in 24" brand).
- METRO Project and Impact on UH:
 - UH Taskforce is working with METRO to express campus concerns.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Doug Thornton asked if there are any benefits to this project. Raymond Bartlett responded that from UH's perspective, the benefits are unclear and will need to fully understand the scope of the project with meaningful dialogue with METRO.

FS Pres. Das asked if there are any stops on the proposed route. SVP Bartlett replied that there are no stops on the route. However, his team is working with METRO.

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Research & Transfer Technology: [Amr Elnashai](#)

VP Amr Elnashai reported on the following items:

- Core Facilities: DoR has inventoried research space and equipment on campus. Looking at ways to accommodate equipment on campus.

- Presidential Frontier Faculty Program: Dr. Elnashai thanked Provost Short for her partnership. Quality of candidates are high and the recruiting process is progressing well.
- DoR Staffing: DoR is addressing the staff shortage. Sixteen job ads have been posted. VP Elnashai asked for patience regarding turnaround time on submissions to DoR.
- 50-in-5 Celebration: Event was held last Monday and well-attended (148 faculty).
- Research Enterprise: UH is ranked #3 as a research university in Texas.
 - Research Income increased by 25%
 - Research Expenditure needs to increase. Dr. Elnashai encouraged faculty to spend.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Caryn Tamber-Rosenau asked if DoR will remove NTT restrictions on internal awards. Dr. Elnashai replied that his objective is to have no restrictions on the awards. He plans to work with the RSC on changing these restrictions.

Sen. Michelle Ivey commented that she was denied applying for internal awards because she is an instructional NTT faculty member, not a clinical faculty member. VP Elnashai responded that he will look into this issue and work with the RSC.

Sen. Zhifeng Ren asked if there is an update about the College of Technology move to Sugar Land. Provost Paula Short responded that she established a transitional taskforce to make recommendations about the move. The second building will allow the college to transition the rest of the programs to Sugar Land. The taskforce just had its organizational meeting and no report has been provided yet. Dr. Short said she expects to give an update at the April Senate meeting.

Report from and Discussion with Provost Search Committee Chairs: [Cathy Horn](#) and [Ramanan Krishnamoorti](#)

Committee Chair Cathy Horn thanked Provost Paula Short for the tremendous work she has done for UH.

Dr. Cathy Horn presented a brief update regarding the Provost Search.

- Committee is comprised of thirteen members and two chairs.
- Search firm SP&A will assist the committee in the search.
- Activities Underway: Position Prospectus, Web Page, and Upcoming Listening Tour
- General Search Committee Timeline: February 2022 through May 2022
 - February: Finalize prospectus and launch web page
 - March: Conduct listening tours and build applicant pool
 - April: Review applicants & conduct first round of interviews
 - May: Bring finalists to campus

FS Pres. Vallabh Das asked how recommendations can be submitted? Chair Ramanan Krishnamoorti said that there will be a nomination web portal. However since the nomination portal hasn't been set up yet, nominations can be sent to the committee co-chairs or any of the search committee members.

Presentation by the University of Houston System Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Associate Vice President for Administration: [Emily A. Messa](#)

Dr. Emily Messa presented the following Administration updates:

- Parking and Transportation:
 - Virtual Permits in FY 2023 instead of hanging permits
 - Auto Renewal of Parking Permits
 - Permit Rates for FY 23 and FY 24
- Copy, Print, & Delivery Services
 - Installation of mail & parcel locker locations (Phases 1, 2, & 3)

- Dining
 - Dr. Messa highlighted the enhanced options of UH dining services
 - Continuation of Celebrity Chef series
- UHS Public Art: Upcoming Exhibitions & Events
 - Andy Warhol and the Photographic Process (February 23 to April 6, 2022)
 - Current and upcoming public programs

Q&A Session:

Sen. Hildegard Glass asked how virtual parking would work with a rental car. Dr. Emily Messa responded that Parking will be rolling out a process for that situation and details will be forthcoming.

Sen. Richard Meisel asked what if the EZ tag doesn't work: is there a back-up method? Emily Messa replied that there will be secondary process in case the EZ tags doesn't work (i.e., Cougar card, etc.).

Sen. Jeremy May asked how can lockers work for departments that receive large delivery volumes or hazardous substances. Dr. Messa responded that her department will make individual arrangements with departments on large deliveries. Hazardous materials will still go through HLS department. Perishable items are also separate from the locker deliveries.

FS Pres. Vallabh Das asked what the percentage of mail can be handled by the locker system. Dr. Emily Messa replied that her department is seeing an increase in usage (percentage is good). She commented that during the pandemic, people are making more purchases online.

Sen. Arthur Conklin asked about the status of food options at the Sugar Land campus. Dr. Messa responded that she's on the COT Transition Taskforce and they'll be looking at the growth of the college and see what amenities will be needed.

Sen. Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau asked how will the virtual permit work with multiple cars. Dr. Emily Messa replied that there will be different rules in place on how many cars can be on a permit. The new rules and details will be in place before May 2022.

Sen. Richard Meisel asked if FedEx and UPS will still be able to deliver directly to departmental offices. Dr. Messa responded that FedEx and UPS will still be able to deliver directly to departments. The locker system is for USPS deliveries.

Sen. David Politzer asked about the status of food options in the Elgin Garage. Dr. Messa replied that currently food services will not be offered in the Elgin Garage, especially with the new food hub that will be built (groundbreaking in April). However, she has discussed with Dean Dave about doing a trial food truck service. If there's demand in the location, food truck service could be expanded.

Announcement

FS Pres. Vallabh Das reminded senators and guests that the last APeX talk featuring Dr. Quenette Walton (Graduate College of Social Work) will be held on February 26th via Teams.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.