



**Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M. D. Anderson Library & via Microsoft Teams  
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Vallabh Das called the April 20, 2022 the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded attendees about hybrid meeting protocols.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (112)**

ARCH: G. Chow, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, P. Peters  
ARTS: R. Bush, N. Harren, R. Koontz, S. Matijcio, C. Meals, T. Van Kekerix on behalf of T. Koozin  
BUS: B. Carlin, N. Celly, A. Lish, M. Murray, J. Porra, F. Sahin  
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee, A. Peters  
ENGR: D. Burleson, C. Chang, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, D. Litvinov, H. Love, Y. Mo, S. Pei, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao  
HON: D. Price  
HRM: Y. Koh, T. Legendre, J. Madera, S. Sirsat, C. Taylor  
LAW: K. Brem, J. Nelson  
CLASS: F. Bunta, P. Butler, J. Cortina, H. Glass, M. Goldberg, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, L. Maher, D. Papell, S. Scarrow, E. Simas, C. Sisk, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, J. Tolliver, Z. Xiao, L. Zhu  
LIB: K. Creelman, T. Davis-Van Atta, V. Douglas, S. Thompson, A. Wu  
COM: G. Gomez, K. Rowland  
NSM: M. Almus, B. Bodmann, J. Briggs, J. Brgoch, A. Caglar, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, S. Huang, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, M. Nicol, D. Pattison, Z. Ren, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne, B. Xhabli  
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams, P. Schrader  
OPT: V. Das, L. Frishman, R. Manny, J. O'Brien, J. Porter  
PHA: D. Chow, G. Cuny, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya  
HSPA: D. Engster  
RES CTRS: S. Chung  
RES FAC: O. Bannova  
GCSW: S. Ali, S. Narendorf  
TECH: M. Burns, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, M. Kidd, A. Lendasse, F. Merchant

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (31)**

ARCH: Z. Qureshi  
ARTS: T. Koozin, T. Morgulis, D. Politzer, K. Rigdon  
BUS: S. Basu, C. Becker, P. Kumar, S. Werner  
EDU: S. Brower, W. Fan, J. Freiberg  
ENGR: J. Conrad, M. Robertson  
LAW: D. Fagundes, E. Trujillo  
CLASS: E. Alemán, K. Anderson, R. Boul, L. Camaj, S. Deyle, C. Spitzmueller, A. Vujanovic  
NSM: M. Papadakis  
OPT: D. Coates, S. Modi

PHA: R. Ghose  
TECH: A. Conklin, X. Yuan

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

**VISITORS:** Kamran Alba (ET/TECH), Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Monique Baucham (Dir., IE – Assessment & Accreditation), Zheng Chen (ME/ENGR), Ann Christiansen (ENGL/CLASS), Jeff Church (Chair, POLS), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Carrie Cutler (CUIN/EDU), Amr Elnashai (VC/VP, DoR & TT), Mike Emery (Sr. Director, Univ. Communications), Lisa Farmer (BIOL/NSM), Fleurette Fernando (COTA), Rhoda Freelon (ELPS/EDU), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Finance & Administration), Lisa Holdeman (VC/VP, Univ. Marketing & Communication), Cathy Horn (Chair, ELPS/EDU), Athena Jackson (Dean, LIB), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Presidents' Office), R. Khator (Chancellor/President, UHS/UH), Ashok Kumar (PPS/PHA), Sarah Larsen (Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School), Stuart Long (ECE/ENGR), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost/Dean, Undergraduate Affairs), Cindy Mejia (Chief of Staff, Provost's Office), Jeff Morgan (Assoc. Provost, Educ. Innovation & Technology), Dan O'Conner (Dean, CLASS), David Oliver (AVP, Facilities, Planning, & Construction), J.R. Rao (ENGR), Amy Sater (BIOL/NSM), Paula Myrick Short (SVC/SVP, Academic Affairs), Maria Elena Soliño (Chair, Hispanic Studies), Maria Victoria Tejada-Simon (PHA), Jennifer Vardeman (COMM/CLASS), Dan Wells (Dean, NSM), James West (MATH/NSM), George Zouridakis (Associate Dean, TECH)

### **Approval of Minutes: March 23, 2022 Meeting**

The Senate approved the March 23, 2022 minutes as distributed.

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

FS President Vallabh Das gave the following updates:

- Faculty Senate Conference (March 31–April 1, 2022): CGRC Chair Susie Gronseth gave a brief summary of the conference. She thanked everyone who helped make the event a success. FS Pres. Vallabh Das thanked Susie Gronseth for her leadership in coordinating the conference.
- TCFS Meeting (April 8-9, 2022): Drs. Vallabh Das and David Shattuck attended the bi-annual meeting in Austin, Texas. Academic freedom, tenure, and critical race theory were among the agenda items discussed.
- Provost Search Committee: The committee is reviewing the candidates and will begin narrowing down the candidate list. The search committee co-chairs will be scheduling interviews next month.
- The next BoR Meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022. FS Pres. Das encouraged senators to watch the livestream.

### **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:

- Reimagining the Workplace was implemented this month (alternative workplace arrangements). Pres. Khator emphasized that student success is UH's number one goal. She added that faculty success is also crucial to UH as a Tier One research university.
- Enrollment:
  - Summer 2022: Down 14%
  - Fall 2022: Down 4%
- Ukraine Situation: UH has students who are affected by this situation. The Cougar Emergency fund (coordinated by the UH Alumni Association) has provided some help. The university is finding alternative ways to help these students, since state funds cannot be used.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Anna Vershynina proposed that crowd source funding might be a possible method to help these students affected in the Ukraine situation. She also asked how many Ukrainian and Russian students and faculty UH has. Pres. Khator responded she did not know what the numbers are. She referred Sen. Vershynina to the Provost who may know this information.

Sen. Natilee Harren asked about managing the pandemic in the fall 2022 term. Pres. Khator replied that administration in collaboration with the COVID-19 Team would continue to monitor the situation and move quickly when needed.

### **Special Presentation by Faculty Senate President [Vallabh Das](#)**

FS President Vallabh Das presented the Faculty Senate Resolution to Provost Paula Myrick Short who has been a great supporter of the Faculty Senate and shared governance. The Faculty Senate and guests responded overwhelmingly with appreciative applause towards Provost Short.

### **Annual 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 her state of Academic Affairs address "Time Certainly Flies". The presentation focused on:

- Student Success
- Faculty Excellence
- University on the Move
- College Achievements.

Dr. Short thanked the faculty for their great work in helping UH succeed. She also thanked the Faculty Senate for collaborating with her on several initiatives over the years.

Copies of the Provost's 2022 Impact Report were made available to the Senate and guests.

### **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:

- Staff Compensation Analysis:
  - Phase 1: Updated the records for staff whose positions were affected by the analysis.
    - Biweekly staff increase will be effective May 6, 2022
    - Monthly staff increase will be effective May 1, 2022
  - Phase 2: Progressing as scheduled.
  - Phase 3: Complete equity analysis.
    - Hiring of external consultant to assist in the broader scope of work that needs to be done beyond the recent analysis.
- Merit Raise FY 2023: 2% increase for staff (subject to available funding)
- Curative Testing Kiosk: Negotiations to extend contract until September 2, 2022
- Medical Research Facility (TMC): Continuing discussions with Texas A&M for potential partnership
- Traffic Signage: Consistent signage across the campus.
- Campus Pedestrian Safety: Analyzing intersections.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Anna Vershynina asked if there will be any faculty salary adjustment with the current inflation rate (which is higher than last term). SVP Raymond Bartlett responded that current UH budgetary resources will allow for a 2% merit pool this coming year. However, it's not possible for UH to capture spikes in inflation.

UH is committed to remaining competitive in the marketplace for talent (via the equity compensation analysis, etc.).

Sen. Richard Meisel asked about the company contracted to sanitize classrooms: will the contract be extended? SVP Raymond Bartlett replied that the current contract is in place until August 31, 2022. The university will reassess if services are still needed for the fall 2022 term. Mr. Bartlett offered to have a separate discussion on the risk assessment issue and other concerns in more detail with Sen. Meisel.

Sen. Rebecca Forrest asked about the salary equity evaluation for instructional faculty. SVP Bartlett replied that this concern hasn't been addressed yet and would follow up with Sen. Forrest when he has looked further into this concern.

Sen. Margaret Kidd and Sen. Amaury Lendasse asked if there will be a 2% merit raise for NTT faculty and an equity adjustment. Mr. Bartlett responded that there will be a 2% merit raise available to staff and faculty. The process would be the same does not delineate between NTT and T/TT faculty.

Sen. Bernhard Bodmann asked if there is a possibility to tie parking increases to the merit pool. SVP Raymond Bartlett replied that the cost of parking have gone up: there are several fixed costs to maintain the parking garages. His team is working with SGA to come up with a plan to manage parking increases.

Dr. Maria Elena Soliño asked if the UH game day parking funds could be used to mitigate parking costs. Mr. Bartlett responded that event parking is separate and mainly funds the athletic program.

**Report 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:

- Presidential Frontier Faculty
- Core Facilities

Dr. Elnashai thanked Provost Short for partnership with DoR.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Anna Vershynina asked how many PFF positions will be open for the next academic year. VP Amr Elnashai replied that twenty five lines have been requested.

**Presentation of the 2022 UH Grievance Committee Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Jeronimo Cortina](#)**

The Faculty Governance Committee certified the slate of candidates for the UH Faculty Grievance Committee on April 7, 2022. FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina informed the Senate that there are four tenured/tenure-track seats and one non-tenured track seat available.

Tenure Track candidates:

- Carl Boger, Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Gail Borden, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture & Design
- Scott Gilbertson, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- Francisco Robles Hernandez, College of Technology
- Brad McConnell, College of Pharmacy

Non-Tenure Track candidates:

- Katy Badeaux, University Libraries

Dr. Cortina stated that the election will be conducted online and faculty will be notified by email when the election has been launched.

**First Reading of Faculty Senate Constitution Amendments by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Jeronimo Cortina](#)**

FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina presented the first reading of the Senate Constitution amendments.

Article 1 & 5:

Section Five-- Elections to the Senate shall be for a term of three years.

*Each Senator shall serve only on one Senate standing committee, including the Undergraduate, Research and Scholarship, Graduate and Professional Studies, Budget and Facilities, Community and Government Relations, and Faculty Affairs, excluding the Executive Committee, Faculty Governance Committee, and other special committees or newly created committees.*

Article 4 & 5:

*Section Five*--Except as provided elsewhere, the Faculty Governance Committee shall oversee the election of all Faculty Senate members and its officers. **By the April meeting** of the Senate, the committee shall present two nominations for the positions of president-elect and secretary, and four nominations for the two at-large positions on the executive committee.

Bylaw Two:

- Duties of President-Elect:
  - Preside over all meetings of the Faculty Senate and the Assembly of the Faculty in the absence of the president.
  - Be a voting ex officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees of the Faculty Senate, and act as liaison between these committees and the president.
  - Further assist the president as the president may deem advisable.
  - Coordinate with the secretary the communications of the Senate.
  - Be a voting ex officio member of the University Coordinating Commission.
  - ~~Be a voting ex officio member of the University Commission on Women.~~

Bylaw Eleven:

The president and president-elect or their representatives shall serve as Senate representatives to the University Faculties Executive Council [UFEC]. Each representative shall serve until the end of the **academic** calendar year, or until replaced. A Senate representative may continue to serve even if the Senator's term of office has expired.

Bylaw Thirteen:

**THIRTEEN** --The Senate is a member of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. The delegate to, and an alternate for, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (CoIA) will be elected by the UH Faculty Senate for two-year terms. **The CoIA Senate representative may continue to serve until the expiration of the term, even if the Senator's term of office has expired. [...]**

**Presentation of the Spring 2021 Senator Election Results and Senate Officer Candidate Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Jeronimo Cortina](#)**

The Faculty Governance Committee certified the Senate election results and the Senate Officer Candidate slate on April 7, 2022. FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina presented the election results and the officer candidate slate.

Spring 2022 Faculty Senate Election Results:

- ARCH (At-Large): Patrick Peters
- EDU (GPSC): Consuelo Arbona
- EDU (GPSC): Bradley Davis
- EDU (RSC): Virginia Rangel
- EDU (UC): Kristen Hassett
- ENGR (At-Large): Stuart Long
- ENGR (UC): Dan Burleson
- HON (UC): Dustin Gish
- LAW (At-Large): Elizabeth Trujillo
- LAW (GPSC): Katherine Brem
- LAW (RSC): Dave Fagundes
- CLASS (At-Large): Mabel Cuesta
- CLASS/HHP (At-Large): Kevin Haubrick
- CLASS/PSYC (At-Large): Arturo Hernandez
- CLASS (GPSC): Elizabeth Goodin-Mayeda
- CLASS (RSC – Social Science): Andres Viana
- CLASS (UC): Whitney Breslin
- NSM (At-Large): Jerry Yang
- NSM/BIOL (At-Large): Richard Meisel
- NSM/COSC (At-Large): Jaspal Subhlok
- NSM/PHYS (At-Large): Kevin Bassler
- NSM (GPSC): Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe
- NSM (RSC): Scott Gilbertson
- NSM (UC): Tejendra Gill
- COM (GPSC): Kimberly Pilkinton
- OPT (RSC): John O'Brien
- PHA (At-Large): Courtney Hunt (1<sup>st</sup> seat)
- PHA (GPSC): Meghana Trivedi
- PHA (RSC): Diana Chow
- GCSW (At-Large): Gabriel Mendoza
- TECH (At-Large): Fatima Merchant
- TECH (UC): Jerry Evans
- LIB (RSC): Reid Boehm

FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina congratulated the newly-elected and re-elected senators.

Spring 2022 Faculty Senate Officer Candidates:

President-elect:

- Susie Gronseth, EDU

- Ana Medrano, NSM

Secretary:

- Julia Kleinheider, CLASS
- Jaana Porra, BUS

Members-At-Large:

- Kerry Creelman, LIB
- Karolos Grigoriadis, ENGR
- Michael Murray, BUS
- Jason Porter, OPT

Senator Holley Love nominated Senator Kristen Hassett from the floor.

Faculty Governance Committee Candidates:

- Kate Anderson, CLASS
- Ferenc Bunta, CLASS
- Kerry Creelman, LIB
- Bret Detillier, TECH
- Gregorio Gomez, COM
- Karolos Grigoriadis, ENGR
- Rex Koontz, ARTS
- Mimi Lee, EDU
- Ruth Manny, OPT
- Jeremy May, NSM
- Donna Pattison, NSM
- Jaana Porra, BUS
- Doug Thornton, PHA
- Elizabeth Trujillo, LAW

Dr. Cortina informed senators that the officer election will be conducted online and an email notice will be sent when the election has been launched.

President-elect candidate speeches followed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.