



Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M. D. Anderson Library & via Microsoft Teams
12:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate President Vallabh Das called the May 11, 2022 the Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. He welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (112)

ARCH: G. Chow, M. Kyropoulou, P. Peters
ARTS: N. Harren, R. Koontz, S. Matijcio, C. Meals, T. Morgulis, D. Politzer
BUS: C. Becker, B. Carlin, N. Celly, A. Lish, M. Murray, J. Porra, S. Werner
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, J. Freiberg, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, M. Lee, A. Peters
ENGR: D. Burleson, C. Chang, K. Grigoriadis, K. Larin, D. H. Love, S. Pei, D. Shattuck, G. Song, Y. Yao
HON: D. Gish, D. Price
HRM: Y. Koh, S. Sirsat, C. Taylor
LAW: K. Brem, E. Trujillo
CLASS: K. Anderson, F. Bunta, P. Butler, L. Camaj, J. Cortina, M. Goldberg, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, J. Kleinheider, M. Knoblauch, L. Maher, D. Papell, S. Scarrow, E. Simas, C. Sisk, B. Tamber-Rosenau, C. Tamber-Rosenau, J. Tolliver, A. Vujanovic, 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, J. Brgoch, J. Briggs, A. Caglar, R. Capuano, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, R. Forrest, S. Gilbertson, R. Lee, J. May, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, M. Nicol, M. Papadakis, D. Pattison, A. Vershynina, C. Wayne, B. Xhabli
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams, P. Schrader
OPT: D. Coates, V. Das, L. Frishman, R. Manny, S. Modi, J. Obrien, 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
TECH: M. Burns, A. Conklin, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, A. Lendasse, F. Merchant

MEMBERS ABSENT: (31)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, Z. Qureshi
ARTS: R. Bush, K. Rigdon, T. Van Kekerix on behalf of Timothy Koozin
BUS: S. Basu, P. Kumar, F. Sahin
EDU: W. Fan
ENGR: J. Conrad, D. Litvinov, Y. Mo, M. Robertson
LAW: D. Fagundes, J. Nelson
CLASS: E. Alemán, R. Boul, S. Deyle, H. Glass, M. Ivey, C. Spitzmueller
NSM: B. Bodmann, S. Huang, Z. Ren
PHA: R. Ghose

TECH: M. Kidd, 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), Mark Clarke (Associate Provost, Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs), Neil Hart (Exec. Director, Parking & Transportation), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Finance & Administration), Cathy Horn (Chair, ELPS/EDU), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, Presidents' Office), R. Khator (Chancellor/President, UHS/UH), Sarah Larsen (Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Vice Provost & Dean, Undergraduate Student Success), Emily Messa (Sr. AVC/AVP, Administration), Paula Myrick Short (SVC/SVP, Academic Affairs)

Approval of Minutes: April 20, 2022 Meeting

The Senate approved the April 20, 2022 minutes as distributed.

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

FS President Vallabh Das announced that due to a full meeting agenda, he didn't have any updates, but would answer questions that the audience had.

Presentation of the 2022 Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement Senator Service Award: [Vallabh Das](#)

Senator Donna Pattison was recognized and given the inaugural 2022 Lifetime Achievement Senator Service Award.

Recognition of the 2021-2022 Senate Committee Chairs and Executive Committee Members: [Vallabh Das](#) and [David Shattuck](#)

The Executive Committee members were acknowledged and given recognition plaques for their dedication to shared governance and service during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Consuelo Arbona
Jim Briggs
Jeronimo Cortina
Kerry Creelman
Karolos Grigoriadis
Susie Gronseth
Kristen Hassett
Jeremy May
David Papell
Jaana Porra

Presentation of the Spring 2022 College of Pharmacy At-Large Seat Run-off Election, 2022 UH Grievance Committee Election Results and Senate Officer Election Results by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Jeronimo Cortina](#)

UH Grievance Committee Election Results

The Faculty Senate Faculty Governance Committee met on May 11, 2022 to certify the UH Faculty Grievance Committee election results. The following candidates were elected to the following positions:

Tenured and Tenure-Track (Four 3-year seats):

- 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 candidate (One 3-year seat):”

- Katy Badeaux, University Libraries

FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina congratulated the newly-elected UH Grievance Committee members.

Spring 2022 Faculty Senate College of Pharmacy At-Large Run-off Election Results and Senate Officer Election Results

The Senate College of Pharmacy At-Large Run-off election concluded on May 6, 2022 and the FGC certified the results on May 11, 2022. The senator elected to the 3-year at-large seat is:

Aditi Marwaha, Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences

FGC Chair Cortina welcomed Aditi Marwaha to the Faculty Senate.

The 2022 Senate Officer Election concluded on May 5, 2022 and the FGC certified the results on May 11, 2022. The following senators elected to the following positions are:

2022-2023 President-Elect

Susie Gronseth, College of Education

2022-2023 Secretary

Julia Kleinheider, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

2022-2023 Members-At-Large

Kerry Creelman, University Libraries
Kristen Hassett, College of Education

2022-2023 Faculty Governance Committee members

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

FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina extended congratulations to the Faculty Senate’s newest officers.

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

Pres. Renu Khator congratulated the newest UH Grievance Committee members, newly-elected senators and Senate officers.

Dr. Khator also reported on the following items:

- Commencement: UH had graduated 5, 917 students this spring. Pres. Khator congratulated faculty for their hard work and dedication to student success.
- Enrollment:
 - Summer enrollment is down 5%
 - Fall enrollment is up 2%
 - Transfer and returning students enrollment are down 7% (national trend); Pres. Khator encouraged faculty to reach out to returning students.
- State Legislature:
 - Pres. Khator attended the meeting of the Senate Higher Education Committee and advocated for PUF (or similar funding) for UH.
- Athletics: UH is still in transition to the Big 12.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Manos Papadakis commented that he's seeing a decline in the quality of graduate students. He asked what UH is planning to do for graduate students (i.e., stipend packages aren't competitive enough). Pres. Khator responded that UH will need to find a way to obtain additional funding and gradually create strategic ways to competitively support UH graduate students.

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 updated the Senate on the following items:

- Board of Regents meeting is Thursday, May 19, 2022
- Contract cleaning company follow-up:
 - COVID team is examining the efficacy of keeping the contract for enhanced cleaning, UH protocols and including these in UH's broader evaluation.

Q&A Session:

FS Pres. Vallabh Das asked when is the expected decision about COVID protocols. SVP Raymond Bartlett replied that he expects a decision to be made sometime in the summer. There are plans to extend the Curative contract to September 2, 2022.

Sen. Manos Papadakis asked if there is any room to give more substantial staff and faculty raises given the current inflation rates. SVP Bartlett responded that the 2% merit raise pool is a high priority as UH begins to develop the next fiscal year budget. Pres. Khator commented that with the combination of high inflation, UH's flat enrollment this year (and last year) and no tuition increase planned, there isn't a clear or positive answer to solve this concern. However, Pres. Khator welcomed feedback/ideas from anyone regarding salary raises.

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

FS Pres. Vallabh Das gave brief update on VP Amr Elnashai's behalf. He reported on the following items:

- Presidential Faculty Frontier:

- 7 of 22 positions have been filled, 10 are in the final stages of negotiations, 5 are in the final interview stage. The deadline for this first round of PFF hires is July 1. Any vacant PFF lines left will return to the Provost office and the next hiring campaign (i.e., RFPs from deans) will begin late July/early August.
- Core Equipment:
 - UH will acquire a list of equipment (depending on available state funds). As funds become available, the acquisition program will accelerate.
- Core Space:
 - All pieces of equipment have been identified. Preparation funds have been determined. Waiting to hear from the SVP for Administration & Finance's about funding to begin construction.
- Research Expenditure Ranking: Expecting a significant increase in research expenditures in 2022.
- RSC Retreat was held on May 9.

Provost Search Committee Update by Co-Chairs: [Cathy Horn](#) and [Ramanan Krishnamoorti](#)

Co-chair Cathy Horn reported on the following items:

- Four dozen competitive applications were received.
- Held about 20 hours of candidate interviews (semi-finalists)
- The committee will meet this week to give recommendations to Pres. Khator and determine the next steps.
- The committee has been working hard and committed to staying on task and the timeline.
- Dr. Horn thanked Pres. Renu Khator for her work in coordinating this committee.

Q&A Session:

Sen. Manos Papadakis asked about the data regarding the discipline diversity among the applications. Dr. Cathy Horn responded that she didn't have the data, but there was a wide representation across the disciplines.

Sen. Anna Vershynina asked what UH-specific qualities are we looking for so the we can create specific questions for candidates (esp. UH issues). Dr. Horn responded that the committee focused thematically on eight areas that were mentioned on the prospectus and named a few.

On behalf of Ramanan Krishnamoorti and the search committee, Dr. Cathy Horn thanked the Senate for their engagement, care, patience, and recognition that this position matters to everyone.

Update on Virtual Parking Permit by University of Houston System Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Associate Vice President for Administration: [Emily A. Messa](#)

Dr. Emily presented the Virtual Parking Permit update. The update focused on:

- General overview of virtual parking permits
- Options to enter/exit garages and gated surface lots
- Virtual Cougar Cards
- Embracing Technology
- Garage Hopper Permit
- Auto Renewal of Reserved & Gated Parking Permits
- Making updates to vehicles
- Associating a vehicle to a permit

Q&A session followed.

Second Reading and Voting of the Faculty Senate Constitution Amendments by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Jeronimo Cortina](#)

FGC Chair presented the second 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. [...]**

Sen. Manos Papadakis asked for clarification of the Article 1 & 5 proposal. The proposal doesn't state if a senator serving on a committee will be for one academic year or the whole three-year term. Sen. Donna Pattison further added that at-large senators do have a choice to switch membership to another at-large

standing committees. She recommended a friendly amendment to Article 1 & 5 proposal that a senator should serve only one standing at a time.

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 at a time, 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.

Sen. Papadakis seconded the motion.

FGC Chair Jeronimo Cortina informed senators that an electronic ballot will be sent out after the Senate meeting.

Faculty Senate Committee Chair Reports

Each committee chair updated the Senate regarding their group's activities during the 2021-2022 academic year. The chairs thanked their committee members for their hard work.

FS Pres. Vallabh Das thanked the committee chairs for their leadership and the committee members for their hard work.

New Business: None

Announcements:

FS Pres. Vallabh Das announced that the Faculty Senate will not meet in the summer unless there is urgent business. He wished the senators a relaxing summer.

Sen. Dustin Gish asked if the Senate will give updates regarding the current provost search during the summer term. FS Pres. Vallabh Das replied the committee hopes to finish their search by the end of this month.

FAC Chair David Papell thanked and acknowledged FS President Vallabh and FS President-elect David Shattuck for their leadership and dedication to the Faculty Senate.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.