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

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes for April 16, 2008

A meeting of the University of Houston Undergraduate Council convened at 3:08 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, in the Kiva room of Farish Hall.

Members Present: Josie Anderson, Libby Barlow, Betty Barr, Roger Blakeney, Joel Bloom, Simon Bott, Lawrence Curry, Agnes DeFranco, William Dupré, Luces Faulkenberry, Sarah Fishman, Nancy Graves, Nathan Jarvis, Richard Kasschau, Partha Krishnamurthy, Iain Morrison, Charles Peters, Laurence Rapp, Maria Soliño, Rebecca Achee Thornton, Dalibor Torbica, George Trail, Lawrence Williams, John Zemanek

Members Absent: Elaine Charlson, Martha Haun, Natalie Houston, Barbara Lewis, William Munson, Norma Olvera, Barbara Snelling

Guests: Michael Gibson (TECH), Carole Goodson (TECH), Steven Liparulo (UH Writing Center), Kevin Simon (HRM), Lesley Sisk (ENGR), Jerry Waite (TECH), Dan Wells (Faculty Senate)

Staff: Izzy Anderson, Marsha Daly, Heidi Kennedy

I   Call to Order; Minutes for 3/12/08
Council was called to order by Dr. Joel Bloom at 3:08 p.m. Minutes from 3/12/08 were accepted.

II   Announcements

A   NOTE: All meetings are held in the President's Boardroom, #220 E. Cullen, unless otherwise noted.
Spring 2008 Meetings: 6/4/08, 7/9/08

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)

D   Appreciation Certificates were presented to Nathan Jarvis and Dalibor Torbica for their service.

III   Administration Representatives Reports: Agnes DeFranco

Orientation is about to begin. Anyone with less than 15 hours of credit must attend orientation. This orientation is more academic in nature. The fee is $100 which is for two days and includes room and board.

General Policy Statement on internet and cell phone use in class. The Student Handbook (http://www.uh.edu/dos/publications/handbook.php) covers this in the Disciplinary Code (3.2).

IV   PeopleSoft update: Libby Barlow, Registrar
Web address: http://www.uh.edu/peoplesoft/

Academic Standing: When it runs the process will insert a suspension row but it will not cancel future enrollments. Colleges and Departments will have to do that manually.

Grading calendar is available and has been sent to faculty. Students will be able to see their grades on May 14th. Academic Standing will be run 2 days after that date which will require any grade changes to be done on the paper forms, not online.

Grade Rosters will be available on April 25th.

Members noted that WebCT must stay up until after grades are posted.

Prerequisite checking: Business, Engineering, and Technology are looking into this functionality.

V   Election of UC Chair for 2008-2009

Call for nominations from the floor: none received.

Lawrence Williams was elected chair.

VI   University Studies Division Task Force: Preliminary Report: Dan Wells (UC 9756 08S)

Students that matriculate as undeclared have poorer retention rates, poorer graduation rates, and take longer to earn their degree.

Members would like to see actual numbers in the charts, not just percentages of students.

A follow up report will be made to Council in August or September.

VII   UC 9749 08S: General Education Assessment: Libby Barlow, Institutional Effectiveness

Report to the State regarding Core includes assessment. A midterm report in 2004 showed that we were largely compliant. The 2009 report will include evidence of outcomes of Core competencies.

Quantative Reasoning Assessment: The review looked at the test bank and homework assignments. There were 500+ students in the sample.

Critical Thinking Assessment: The Rubric will be distributed to faculty for feedback and then a fuller scale assessment will be done. Faculty are encouraged to use this Rubric.

SACS Accountability: one of the compliance issues is general education assessment. UH did not "buy a test" to address this. A compliance plan will document the "what", "how", and results.

QEP overlaps with the general education assessment. See table 18 in the QEP report (http://www.uh.edu/discovery/QEP_Report.html).

VIII   Committee Reports

A   Academic Policies and Procedures Committee:

UC 9744 08S: Academic Policies and Procedures Committee Report 4/1/08
UC 9732 08S: Computer Science Transfer Requirements: this document was approved.

The remaining documents in this report will be discussed at a Special Meeting that will be called for May: Members are asked to discuss these topics with their peers before the special meeting.
UC 9741 08S: Policy for Drops After the Last Day for Dropping Courses
UC 9742 08S: Registration Proposal

UC 9754 08S: Academic Policies and Procedures Committee Report 4/16/08: Approved

B   Core Curriculum Committee: no report

C   Degree Programs Committee:

UC 9745 08S: Degree Programs Committee Report 3/26/08: Approved as amended here
Adding UC 9686 07F: B.S. in Digital Media (new degree program)

UC 9751 08S: Degree Programs Committee Report 4/2/08: Approved as amended here
Adding UC 9415 07F: PSYC 4302: The Psychology of Humor (new course)

UC 9752 08S: Dance Track and Dance Minor changes: Approved

IX   Old Business/New Business

X   Adjournment at 4:54 pm