President Catherine Horn called the March 22, 2017 Spring Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate Meeting to order in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion of the M.D. Anderson Library at 12:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (65)
- ARCH: D. Froehlich, S. Rifaat
- COTA: J. deMontmollin, J. Evans, J. Mueller, R. Shimko, S. Wallace
- CON: S. Lee
- HON: S. Long
- HRM: J. Draper, D.C. Taylor
- LAW: L. Hoffman
- LIB: N. Dethloff, A. Malone
- NSM: E. Bittner, R. Capuano, D. Frigo, R. George, S. Gilbertson, J. May, M. Papadakis, D. Pattison, J. Snow
- OPT: V. Das, R. Manny, D. Otteson
- PHA: D. Chow, J. Eriksen, T. Hussain, B. McConnell, S. Salim
- TECH: M. Moges, B. Detillier, S. Ezell, K. Greenwood, R. Pascali

MEMBERS ABSENT: (67)
- ARCH: E. Kwon, W. Truitt, M. Rodriguez
- BUS: D. Currie, R. Keller, J. Hess, A. Miljanić, M. Murray, S. Werner
- COTA: C. Boone, A. Noble
- EDU: C. Arbona, J. Gonzalez
- ENGR: S. Brankovic, Y. Kulkarni, S. Pei, S. Shevkoplyas, J. Wolfe
- GCSW: R. Gearing, S. Jennings, P. Leung, M. Sampson
- HON: C. LeVeaux-Haley
- HRM: J. Madera, C. Morosan, K. Titz
- LAW: B. Evans, J. Heppard, P. Linzer, A. Winnike
LIB: J. Bronicki, K. Creelman
OPT: D. Currie, A. McDermott, A. Giannoni, J. Porter
PHA: V. Tam
RES CTRS: R. Simpson
TECH: G. Zouridakis

VACANT SEATS: (4)
   LAW – 2 seats / RES FAC: RSE – 1 seat / CLASS (Dept.) – 1 seat

VISITORS: Gary Cooper (Assistant Professor, School of Theatre & Dance), Marcella Norwood (Associate Professor, Human Development & Consumer Science), Shafik Rifaat (Dean, School of Architecture), Scot Pott (Clinical Instructor for Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders), Oscar Gutierrez (Assistant to C/P of Communications), Rachel Bush (Assistant Professor, School of Theatre & Dance)

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 15, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

Report from and Discussion with the Faculty Senate President: Catherine Horn

President Horn welcomed everyone to the Faculty Senate Meeting. She thanked all the senators who attended the first “Finally Friday” informal gathering at the Faculty Café as well as JéAnna Abbott and the FED (Faculty Engagement and Development) for their partnership and collaboration. She announced the Community and Government Relations Committee presentation of the final APeX Lecture in the 2016-17 series on Wednesday, March 29th at 12:15 p.m. with Dr. Melanie Rudd (Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, C.T. Bauer College of Business). Pres. Horn mentioned that the Border, Trade, and Immigration Center would be hosting an open house on Monday, March 27th. She thanked all the subcommittees who conducted assessments of their colleagues for the internal awards applications and encouraged faculty members to submit their proposals for future award consideration. Pres. Horn also expressed her appreciation to everyone who completed the Faculty Senate’s priorities survey, noting that she would be reporting the results in the near future.

Dr. Horn stated that all Senators had received invitations to participate in university-wide service outside of the Faculty Senate, including many UH standing committees the Faculty Senate worked with frequently. One of the unintended consequences that emerged from these recent invitations was that they identified where some of the Faculty Senate’s policy language was inconsistent. Pres. Horn requested that the FGC investigate and address this area.

President Horn announced that the pilot of the Provost’s Open Access Textbook endeavor had begun, and she thanked the senators and Executive Committee who have continued to work on this project. Dr. Horn informed the senators that she gave a data-explicit reminder of all the contributions that the Faculty Senate had made to the three pillars of responsibilities at the Board of Regents meeting in February. She spoke about scholarship, creativity and the contributions that faculty had made towards student success and how these contributions had been translated through graduation outcomes, especially among undergraduates. Additionally, Pres. Horn noted the challenge UH has faced with the representation of women and how progress was made, especially in collaboration with the President and the Provost.

Pres. Horn thanked Provost Short and Jim McShan, Sr. VC/VP, Administration and Finance, for including the Senate as part of the renovation project for space utilizations and restoration of core facilities. Lastly, Dr. Horn thanked Provost Short for supplying the lunch and President Khator for the UH 90th birthday cake for the Spring Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senate meeting.
A senator inquired as to why there was no committee overseeing or overruling the master planning of the campus. Dr. Horn responded that that was part of the Budget & Facilities Committee’s responsibilities.

**Presentation of the 2017 UH Grievance Committee Slate:** Jonathan Snow, Faculty Governance Chair

Dr. Snow announced that the FGC met on March 21st to discuss this year’s candidates for the UH Grievance committee. He noted that five positions were available, each of which carried a full three-year term for candidates who must be full-time, tenured faculty or associate librarians or higher. Dr. Snow also stated that members of the administration, department chairs or higher were not eligible to serve on this committee. He announced the candidates were:

- Jason Berger, CLASS
- Michael Ray Charles, COTA
- Stephen Huang, NSM
- Judith Perrigin, OPT
- Ronnie Self, ARCH
- Lynn Voskuil, CLASS
- Nancy Young, CLASS

He asked if there were any further nominations for the UH Faculty Grievance Committee and there were none. He informed the senators that they would be notified by e-mail when the polls were open, that voting would be conducted online and that the instructions for the vote would be in the token received.

A senator requested an update on the FGC’s work on reapportionment. Dr. Snow responded that the FGC has a task force that would be meeting soon but the reapportionment issue would not be addressed prior to the upcoming UC elections this semester.

**Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Chancellor and University of Houston President:** Renu Khator (Unable to attend)

**Keynote Address:** Paula Myrick Short University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Provost Short thanked everyone for the opportunity to present the Provost’s Report and shared many of the important accomplishments and successes of this past year including:

- the College of Nursing having 100% of its students pass the NCLEX-RN exam for a third year in a row;
- the establishment of the Katherine G. McGovern College of the Arts;
- the Honors College being ranked in the Top 10 Public University Honors Programs;
- the welcoming of four new members of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering;
- UH becoming the 40th member of Complete College America’s Alliance of States;
- UH joining the Open Textbook Network, which offers free, open source textbooks to students;
- UH raising 4-year graduation rates 2.6 percentage points to 50.7%; and,
- UH having 71% of incoming freshmen sign up for the UHin4 program.

Provost Short noted that, with incoming students, it is their classroom experience that has made a major impact on their success. UH welcomed 4,263 new and first-time in college students having 46% (all undergraduate) being first generation college students. At the same time, UH attracted 33% of students who were in the top 10% of their graduating class (up from 30% last year). The Cub Camp’s three-day extended orientation program (in its third year) has helped 461 freshman students learn about UH traditions, the family of UH and becoming “Cougars”.
 Provost Short announced that her Summer Reading Program, now in its fourth year, would be featuring *Hidden Figures: The Story of the African-American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly. A panel was presented with three NASA employees (all women of color) and an astronaut on March 7th. Dr. Short stated that there would be an author’s visit next fall. She urged the faculty to find ways to engage their students in the reading program and to add a discussion on *Hidden Figures* to their class whenever possible.

Dr. Short noted that more UH students have garnered awards and scholarships this past year including the: Barry Goldwater Scholarship; Critical Language Scholarship (3); Fulbright Scholarship (3); Boren Scholarship (2); *Glamour* Magazine Top Ten College Women (2); NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (3); Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship; Udall Scholarship; Marshall Scholarship; and, the National Internship Programs (3).

Provost Short noted that UH has continued to build global connections with over eight hundred UH students who traveled to study abroad. The UH faculty have participated in the Study Abroad programs in Tokyo, Paris, Berlin, Venice, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Wales. And, UH’s Shasta has also traveled 8,586 miles from Houston to Sydney covering 24 countries, 7 U.S. states and 5 continents.

Dr. Short noted that one of UH’s measurements of success has been graduation rates. Much time and effort and many strategic initiatives have been put forth in this area. She reiterated that of UH’s first time in college freshman this fall, 71% signed up for the UHin4 enrollment. Provost Short stated that this program would affect UH’s 6-year graduation rates considerably. Over the past four years, the UH 6-year graduation rates had increased from 48% and are anticipated to be 54% in 2017. And, the 4-year graduation rates have increased from 23% to an anticipated 32% for this same time frame.

When addressing the UH faculty, Provost Short stated that her favorite saying was “So goes the faculty and so goes the university.” By this, she stated that student success was, in a large part, driven by the expertise and dedication of the faculty. One of the ways UH has worked to support faculty has been through the Global Faculty Development Fund (GFDF) which facilitates instruction, scholarly research and experiential learning. Dr. Short noted that faculty sharing their work internationally was very important to the university. Fifty-three faculty have used the GFDF since 2015 with $71,305 funds having been distributed.

Provost Short spoke about other notable successes this past year that have included:
- being the first to receive three Higher Education Excellence Diversity (HEED) awards in a single year;
- 87 members of the Cougar Chairs Leadership Academy to date, with another 32 graduating in 2018;
- UH Libraries moved up 12 places in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) rankings from 65 to 77. Additionally, the UH Libraries have moved up 17 places in the ARL in the past four years.
- 27 NSF CAREER winners since 2010;
- 18 NAE/NAS members, with 5 new in 2016; and,
- UH having hired 145 new faculty members.

Dr. Short mentioned that UH has been moving forward with a great number of initiatives to continue to develop and change the UH culture. One of the initiatives has been the Center for ADVANCING UH Faculty Success (which has entered its third year). Its goal was to recruit and retain women faculty (particularly women of color), support women in leadership positions and create a lasting infrastructure. This center has continued to promote gender equity and diversity campus-wide through: Women of Color Workshops; Mid-Career Workshops; Postdoctoral Fellows Association; Diversity Search Committee Training, Childcare Spots for New Faculty; Faculty Engagement and Development, Competitive Salary Initiative and significant other accommodations.
Provost Short stated that the Competitive Salary Initiative originated from conversations with the Faculty Senate last year. During the first cycle of this three-year initiative, the efforts have resulted in $826,905 directed toward 307 faculty and librarians; 95% directed toward 97 faculty and 7 librarians and $3,000 directed toward 182 faculty and 21 librarians.

Provost Short announced that the Faculty Café, a “Collision Space” for personal and professional interaction, has not only generated over 400 unique visitors since its opening on January 27, 2017 but has also allowed for a working environment for Emeriti faculty on campus.

Dr. Short announced that UH added five new NAE/NAS members this past year including: Andrea Prosperetti, Kaushik Rajashekara, Ganesh Thakur, John Suppe and Jerome Schultz. UH appointed Antonio Tillis as the new dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). And, with the founding of the new College of the Arts (COTA), Andrew Davis was appointed the Interim Dean. She noted that the establishment of the COTA would solidify the excellence of the college arts programs at UH. The COTA received a $20M gift from Katherine G. McGovern to support the college and which gave it its naming rights.

Provost Short highlighted many students making extraordinary accomplishments that included:
- The UH Law School had a #1 bar passage rate for first-time takers;
- The College of Pharmacy had a 100% MPJE and 95% NAPLEX passage rate;
- The School of Optometry had a 95% NBEO passage rate;
- The College of Nursing had a 100% NCLEX-RN passage rate; and,
- Provost Short added she recently learned that the Petroleum Engineering program was ranked #12 in the country.

In the area of Community Engagement and Outreach, Provost Short noted that the UH initiative “Houston GPS” has been considering how the UH System, as a flagship university, could partner with other universities in the system (and community college systems) to address streamlined pathways and seamless transfer for students from 2-year to 4-year institutions. Houston GPS (eight institutions) became the 40th member of the Complete College America (CCA) Alliance of States. Houston GPS recently invited Texas Southern University to become a member. In the Houston metro area, 226,131 students have the opportunity to be affected by Houston GPS.

Provost Short concluded with a quote from Buzz Aldrin “Exploration is wired into our brains. If we can see the horizon, we want to know what’s beyond.”

A senator complimented the university on being very responsive on immigration issues but did not think that UH was doing enough. The suggestion was to do more and communicate better. Provost Short noted that UH always does their best and appreciated the suggestion.

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Interim Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance: Jim McShan (Unable to attend)

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Interim Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Interim Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer: Ramanan Krishnamoorti (Unable to attend)

New Business

Senator McKinney announced the 2017-18 APeX awards were open for nominations until May 12th. He encouraged the senators and their colleagues to apply.
Dr. Horn closed by reminding everyone to complete the surveys and to encourage excellent people to apply for the upcoming awards as a way to recognize all of the significant work being done by the faculty at UH.

Adjournment: 1:15 p.m.