

Mid-Term Status Review

Senate Updates – 11 December 2024

**What's going on in the
Senate Committees?**

**What's coming up next
for Spring?**

Undergraduate Committee

- **Proposals approved by UC (before December 4): 359 out of 490**
- Course proposals: 320 (85.3%) out of 375, including 12 Core Curriculum (general education)
- Degree Program Creations, Revisions, Deletions: 37 out of 100
- Policy proposals: 2 out of 8
 - One University-level proposal thus far: posthumous and in memoriam degrees
- Withdrawn by the proposers: 3

NB: Approval by UC is NOT automatic—most proposals require interaction between subcommittee reviewers and originating proposers, resulting in revisions

Undergraduate Committee

- Remaining proposals
- Discussion around “permanent” adoption of Test-Optional Admissions for first time in college (FTIC) undergraduates
- Continuing review of course lists for core curriculum requirements

Graduate & Professional Studies Committee

- Proposal approved by GPSC (as of December 3):
 - 24 program revisions
 - 2 admission requirement revisions—including a “fast-track” pathway for UH undergrads to enter graduate studies
 - 1 policy revision
- Discussion around graduate student wages and benefits

Graduate & Professional Studies Committee

- Continuing to explore graduate student wages and benefits—in collaboration with Research & Scholarship and Budget & Facilities Committees
- Refining syllabus policy to accompany UH's adoption of syllabus management tool

Research & Scholarship Committee

- Collecting and reviewing applications for internal awards
- Discussion of faculty concerns in timelines to receive support of research expenditures

Research & Scholarship Committee

- Continuing to make recommendations to Division of Research for internal grants
- Working with Division of Research to utilize Hannover—the new consulting firm for proposal development
- Understanding executive order about foreign interactions
- Monitoring federal changes anticipated for new administration
- Research priorities revision

Budget & Facilities Committee

- Drafting a “phased retirement” program to aid faculty transition
- Collaborating with GPSC and RSC on graduate student wages and benefits
- Collaborating with Faculty Affairs around standardized promotion increment for promotion-eligible non-tenure track faculty

Budget & Facilities Committee

- Continuing follow developments in the Legislative Appropriations Requests submitted by UH
- Continuing to follow development in the financials surrounding intercollegiate athletics
- Following facilities condition and relaying areas of concern

Faculty Governance Committee

- Ran two special elections to clear vacancies
- Made numerous replacement appointments to University Standing Committees

Faculty Governance Committee

- Launching the regular Senate elections
- Conducting Faculty Committee Preferences Survey
- Revising the process to gather feedback about the functioning of University Standing Committees

Faculty Affairs Committee

- Extensive discussion around parking—led to creation of a new zone within Stadium Garage
- Conversation around evaluations of faculty teaching
- Discussion around the newly revised Annual Performance Review and Post-Tenure Review
- Discussion of recent changes to Board policy regarding faculty dismissal due to program closure
- Workload redistribution program changes to align with new regulations for pregnant and parenting students, faculty, and staff
- Faculty concerns regarding student accommodations

Faculty Affairs Committee

- Expanding conversation around evaluations of faculty teaching to include input from UC and GPSC
- Developing further refinements to Annual Performance Review and Post-Tenure Review policies
- Creating a System Administrative Memorandum (SAM) in response faculty dismissal due to program closure
- Review of the “faculty emeritus” designation
- Continuing to refine processes relating to student accommodations
- Senate Service award selection

Community & Government Relations Committee

- Fostering connections to Student Government Association and to UHS Office of Community and Government Relations
- Re-imagining the former “Provost Reads” program
- Creating flyers to educate faculty about benefits of senate service AND to educate the general public about role of faculty
- Hosting APEx lecture series

Community & Government Relations Committee

- Participating in UH Day at the Capitol – February 11
- Continuing to plan events to foster sense of belonging among faculty
- Deciding theme for next UH Faculty Conference (2026!)
- Monitoring legislative activities in the state and nation

Thinking ahead...

Senate meetings for next year

January – legislative update from Jason Smith

February – intro to athletics and Eddie Nunez

March – intro to College of Medicine and Dean McCullers