



**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Holley Love called the February 12, 2025, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (114)

ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
ARTS: J. Jansen, R. Koontz, D. Robinson, Todd Van Kekerix
BUS: S. Basu, B. Carlin, W. Chin, B. Khumawala, A. Lish, M. Murray, M. Stewart
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, T. Fedor Amador, S. Gronseth, M. Hale, N. Smith, V. Snodgrass Rangel
ENGR: G. Aksu, R. Ballarini, D. Burleson, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, S. Joshi, H. Krishnamoorthy, P. Lindner, S. Long, H. Love, H. Malki, F. Merchant, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, J. Zhang, G. Zouridakis
GHL: Y. Koh, M. Lee, J. Madera
HON: M. Hanke, D. Price, B. Rayder, R. Sharp
LAW: E. Berman, S. Chandler, R. Knake Jefferson
CLASS: J. Babcock, A. Badas, F. Bunta, A. Castilla-Earls, T. Chatagnier, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, S. Gellon, H. Glass, A. Golubev, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, L. Leasure, V. Maheshri, M. Markofski, D. Mazella, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, C. Sisk
LIB: V. Douglas, L. Martin, Katy Stein, S. Thompson, M. Warren
COM: O. Adepoju, D. Curtis, G. Gomez, K. Pilkinton
NSM: K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalife, B. Bodmann, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, R. Forrest, T. Gill, E. Harth, R. Lee, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, G. Morrison, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison, R. Stewart, C. Wayne, J. Yang
CON: K. Barta, C. Brohard, D. Smith
OPT: T. Ferreira, R. Manny, C. Nguyen, J. O'Brien, L. Ostrin
PHA: D. Chow, J. Hao, A. Marwaha, B. McConnell, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
RES CTRS: J. Brgoch
RES FAC: M. Ishibashi

MEMBERS ABSENT: (42)

ARCH: J. Feng
ARTS: R. Bush, A. Cachia, J. Derges, K. Vlahos
BUS: M. Li, H. Lin, X. Ma, Y. Zhao
EDU: B. Davis, K. Hassett, A. Peters-Hawkins
ENGR: T. Liao, D. Litvinov, D. Liu, Y. Yao
GHL: C. Taylor
LAW: K. Brem
LIB: A. Santiago
CLASS: W. Breslin, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, E. Goodin-Mayeda, A. Thrasher, D. Womble
NSM: R. Capuano, L. Farmer, S. Gilbertson, T. Gill, C. Lin, O. Miljanic, J. Subhlok
OPT: J. Porter, C. Ribelayga

PHA: V. Tam, M. Tejada-Simon, M. Trivedi
HSPA: C. Bronk, S. Wong
GCSW: J. Berger Cardoso

GUESTS: Raymond Bartlett (SVP, Administration & Finance), Shawn Buckner (Athletics), Daniel Cherdack (NSM/PHYS), Kerry Creelman (LIB), Taylor Davis-Van Atta (LIB), Christina Gola (Interim Dean, LIB), Roberto Gomez (LIB), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Lisa Holdeman (VP, Univ. Marketing & Communication), Susan Hoover, Jennifer Lazzaro (UHIT/TSS), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost, Undergrad Student Success), A. Martin (LAW), Emily Messa (Sr. AVP, Administration), Claudia Neuhauser (VP for Research), Eddie Nuñez (VP, Athletics), Christie Penzien (Dart Student Accessibility Center), JR Rao (ENGR), Lori M. Selzer (Athletics), Angel Shamblin-Price (Athletics), Marian Smith (LIB), Trale Tevis (LIB), Marti Trummer-Cabrera (CAPS)

Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting were approved as distributed.

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](#)

- Safety & Security Update:
 - SVP Bartlett's team is working with Student Affairs for outreach to the victims of the three security incidents. Planning to bring additional resources to campus. There will be an additional email regarding campus security coming out shortly.
 - There is progress in the three security cases.
 - UHPD was asked to review and assess the 3000 security cameras (i.e., new cameras needed?, need more cameras? cameras placed in the appropriate areas?)
 - Review lighting in parking lots and garages
 - SVP Bartlett emphasized the safety and security of the UH community is his number one priority.

Q&A session followed with questions about live recording capabilities, statistics on perpetrators, security in the Health District (walking to garages), use of security cameras on robots, and broader communication on security measures.

SVP Raymond Bartlett emphasized to everyone to be aware of their surroundings. "If you see something, say something."

Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Research: [Claudia Neuhauser](#)

- VP Claudia Neuhauser asked the senators to pace themselves with the many federal changes that are ongoing. The Division of Research (DoR) has a website of the ongoing changes: updates are made daily. She encouraged faculty to see how graduate students will be impacted by the changes, etc. Dr. Neuhauser invited faculty to let DoR know their concerns via the website (<https://uh.edu/research/resources/federal-updates/#FAQ>)
- NIH funding opportunities: The federal government is looking through the fifty-six-page PDF of funding opportunities to see if there are any DEI components, etc. included). There will probably be terminations across federal agencies. Regarding No Cost extensions on an NIH grant, faculty needs to double-check with the agencies before requesting one.
- Research security hasn't been halted. Faculty need to register for required training through CITI. Business travel isn't allowed to foreign adversary countries.

- Core Facilities: BoR Meeting next week: Will request approval for funding for a piece of core facilities equipment that costs over \$1M.

Q&A session followed with concerns about IDC rates, NSF grants, and UH administration's plans with ongoing changes.

UH Athletics Update by University of Houston Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics: [Eddie Nuñez](#)

VP Eddie Nuñez introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his background. Eddie Nuñez informed the Faculty Senate on what he has been doing during the five months he has been at UH thus far.

- Learning about UH and finding opportunities to get student-athletes involved with campus life (major Athletics initiative).
- Selling the vision of UH Athletics. Will know more about the House Settlement in May 2025.
- Building new partnerships and opening doors with industry to help student-athletes with professional development.
- Traveled to Austin to talk to legislators to elevate UH as a whole (not just the student-athletes).
- Athletics Budget: signed several partnerships to elevate UH Athletics and its budget.

Q&A session followed on concerns about current deficit to cover subsidies (maximizing opportunities to raise funding), rescinding of NIL and other sports besides football/basketball, and student-athlete compensation.

Student-Athlete Academic Support Team

Presenters: Shawn Buckner, Lori Selzer, Angel Shamblin (Athletics Academic Services)

(Unable to attend due to Big 12 Conference travel: Ms. Lauren Dubois - Senior Associate Athletics Director for Governance & Regulatory Affairs; Dr. Cliff Harrell - Senior Associate Athletics Director for Academic Services; Dr. Jason Porter - NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative)

Athletics Academic Team members introduced themselves (Angel Shamblin-Price, Shawn Buckner). Angel mentioned that athletes had to keep up academically along with their athletic endeavors. She spoke about the different strategies to keep athletes on track & decrease the drop rate (i.e., tutor, etc.)

University of Houston Athletics Presentation:

- **Our Numbers**
 - Fall 2024 GPA (3.24, highest in UH Athletic History), 39% Drop in withdrawals
 - GPA ranking by sport
- How Do We Define Student Success?
 - Academic Achievement
 - Personal and Professional Development
 - Engagement and Well Being
 - Equity and Access
- How Do We Measure Student Success?
 - Pre-Enrollment

- Enrollment & First-Year Experience
- Progress & Persistence
- Graduation & Completion
- How Do We Provide A Unified Approach To Student Success?
 - Establishing a shared Definition & Vision
 - Foster Cross-Departmental Collaboration
 - Implement a Data Driven Strategy
 - Enhance Academic and Holistic Support
- Athletic Academic Advising
 - Athletic Academic Advisors Succeed With Support From Campus Partners
 - Admission Team, Orientation Team, Campus Academic Advising Units (NCAA Certification), Undergraduate Student Success (Integrated Studies)
- Strategic Learning Team
 - At-Risk Student Athletes
 - Intake
 - Ongoing Development

A brief Q&A session followed.

Don't Cancel Class Campaign presented by UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):
[Marti Trummer-Cabrera, Assistant Director for Outreach](#) & [Christie Penzien, Assistant Director for Communication Access](#) (Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center)

Link to presentation:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGe0DuauS0/lfRACDbVa7Afk4q9YRyfWA/edit?utm_content=DAGe0DuauS0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Mental Health Updates:

- Don't Cancel Class Campaign: Faculty can incorporate the campaign into their classes (i.e., extra credit, etc.).
- 24/7 Mental Health Supports for Students, Faculty and Staff

JED Campus: Where are life skills being taught or learned on your campus?

- In academic courses
- Within student organizations
- Workshops and Trainings

Don't Cancel Class Campaign: Develop Life Skills!

- Coping skills for college life, Step UP Bystander Intervention, Conquering Distress, College level reading strategies
- Workshops are available through the CoogsCare webpage.

24/7 Mental Health Support for Students, Faculty and Staff

- Access online tools with @cougarnet.uh.edu
- Welltrack Boost Mobile App: Interactive Self-Therapy (i.e., faculty can incorporate app into their class).

Auxiliary Services Update by University of Houston System Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Associate Vice President for Administration: [Emily Messa](#)

Dr. Emily Messa introduced the Dining Team: Benito Gavirio (Campus Sr. Executive Chef), Patrick LeSanto (Resident District Manager), Eric Geiger (VP of Operations/UH Dining System), Jason Scheinthal (Director of Operations).

University of Houston Spring 2025 Dining Updates Presentation:

Program Highlights

- **Cougar Woods Dining Commons**
- **Einstein's Bros Bagels**
- **Retail Dining Options**
- **Wrap-Up**

Cougar Woods Dining Commons

- Dining stations were refreshed (Garden Bar, Bold Bistro, Ciao Chow, Delicious Without, La Mesa, Pit Stop, World Table, Sugar Rush)

Einstein's Bros Bagel

- Closed during fall 2024 due to building damages from Hurricane Beryl. Opened spring 2025.

Updates in Retail Dining

- Chick-Fil-A re-launched breakfast service
- Houston Street Subs opened this spring replacing Melt Lab.
- Breakfast tacos are now available for purchase at the Student Center Market.
- Asado introduced new snackable bowls and a la carte items.
- Paper Lantern launched new menu based on student choice favorites.
- What it Do BBQ opened this spring at the Stadium Parking Garage.

Catering Program Enhancements

- No more service fees.
- New Catering Policy
- Steps to Book with Catering

Wrap-Up

- For the latest hours, programs, and updates, please visit uh.edu/dining.

Report from and Discussion by Faculty Senate President: [Holley Love](#)

- FS Pres. Holley Love thanked the CGRC for their 1-page flyer about the Faculty Senate. She attended the UH Day at the Capitol and students did a great job representing UH.
- The 2025 Faculty Senate Senator Service Award – New Senators: more details will be forthcoming soon.

- Reminder to faculty: Faculty will need to end their classes ten minutes classes early so that the next faculty member can prep for class. If a faculty member continues to encounter this issue, they are asked to contact their department chair.

Faculty Governance Committee Chair Update: Susie Gronseth

- FGC Chair Susie Gronseth announced that Dr. Meng Li is the newest senator (RSC seat, 2-year term).
- FGC will launch the annual UH Standing Committee Preference Survey this week. FGC Chair Gronseth encouraged senators to participate in the survey.

Sen. Seth Chandler asked if the Faculty Senate or any committee consulted about the Return to Work Policy change. FS Pres. Love responded that FS leadership was informed and was asked to anticipate the reaction/impact across campus regarding the AWA policy being rescinded. She mentioned that UH President Khator had thought about this issue for quite a while and had mentioned it during meetings with Senate leadership. Faculty Senate leadership is asking for clarification and guidance and continues to keep in touch with the administration.

New Business

none

Adjournment: 2:04 p.m.