

Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Faculty Senate President Holley Love called the April 16, 2025, Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:24 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (123)

ARCH: J. Feng, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
 ARTS: R. Bush, A. Cachia, J. Jansen, R. Koontz, T. Van Kekerix, K. Vlahos
 BUS: B. Carlin, W. Chin, B. Khumawala, H. Lin, X. Ma, M. Murray, M. Stewart
 EDU: S. Brower, B. Davis, T. Fedor Amador, S. Gronseth, M. Hale, K. Hassett, A. Peters, N. Smith, V. Snodgrass Rangel
 ENGR: G. Aksu, D. Burleson, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Krishnamoorthy, T. Liao, S. Long, H. Love, H. Malki, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, G. Zouridakis
 GHL: Y. Koh, J. Madera, C. Taylor
 HON: M. Hanke, D. Price, B. Rayder, R. Sharp
 LAW: E. Berman, K. Brem, S. Chandler
 CLASS: J. Babcock, A. Badas, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, A. Castilla-Earls, P. Cirino, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, S. Gellon, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, L. Leasure, V. Maheshri, M. Markofski, D. Mazella, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, K. Singh, C. Sisk, D. Womble
 LIB: V. Douglas, L. Martin, A. Santiago, S. Thompson, M. Warren
 COM: O. Adepoju, D. Curtis, G. Gomez, B. King, K. Pilkinton
 NSM: K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, R. Capuano, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, L. Farmer, R. Forrest, T. Gill, E. Harth, R. Lee, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, O. Miljanic, G. Morrison, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison, R. Stewart, J. Subhlok, J. Yang
 CON: K. Barta, C. Brohard, D. Smith
 OPT: T. Ferreira, R. Manny, C. Nguyen, J. O'Brien, J. Porter, C. Ribelayga
 PHA: D. Chow, J. Hao, A. Marwaha, B. McConnell, MariVi Tejada-Simon, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
 HSPA: G. Buttorff, S. Wong
 RES CTRS: J. Brgoch
 RES FAC: M. Ishibashi

MEMBERS ABSENT: (35)

ARTS: J. Derges, D. Robinson
 BUS: S. Basu, M. Li, A. Lish, Y. Zhao
 EDU: C. Arbona
 ENGR: R. Ballarini, S. Joshi, P. Lindner, D. Litvinov, D. Liu, F. Merchant, J. Zhang
 GHL: M. Lee
 LAW: R. Knake Jefferson
 LIB: K. Stein
 CLASS: T. Chatagnier, A. Christensen, A. Golubev, A. Thrasher
 NSM: S. Gilbertson, C. Lin, C. Wayne
 OPT: L. Ostrin
 HSPA: C. Bronk
 GCSW: J. Berger Cardoso

GUESTS: Omar Abdelrahman (ENGR), Jim Briggs (Assoc. Provost, Faculty Affairs), Heather Caslin (CLASS), Long Chang (ENGR), Diane Z. Chase (SVP, Academic Affairs), Tameka A. Clemons (COM), Kerry Creelman (LIB), Katlynn Dahl-Leonard (EDU), Taylor Davis-Van Atta (LIB), Jacqueline Ekeoba (NSM), Mike Emery (Academic Affairs), Wenli Gao (LIB), Jennifer Gifford (NSM), Maria Gonzalez (CLASS), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (LIB), Billy Hawkins (CLASS), Jerrod Henderson (ENGR), Lisa Holdeman (VP, Univ. Marketing & Communication), Gigi Holland (DOR), Birsh Joardar (ENGR), Mike Johnson (President's Office), Renu Khator (President, UH), Sarah Larsen (Dean, Graduate School), Jennifer Lazzaro (UHIT/TSS), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost, Undergrad Student Success), Jennifer Luna-Singh (ENGR), Jeremy May (NSM), Reginald Mills (NSM), Mohamed Mohamed (GHL), Jeff Morgan (Assoc. Provost, Education Innovation & Technology), Claudia Neuhauser (VP for Research), Brenda Robles (Academic Affairs), María Elena Soliño (CLASS), Trale Tevis (LIB), Quentin Vicens (NSM), Alison Wilson (EDU)

Approval of Minutes: March 26, 2025 Meeting

The minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

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

UH Pres. Renu Khator updated the Faculty Senate on the following items:

- Pres. Khator acknowledged the UH Men's Basketball team's successful season
 - Celebration for the basketball team: April 23, 2025, Wednesday, Fertitta Center
- SB37
 - Amendments were passed last night on the Senate committee side; The bill will go to the House Committee next, and eventually return to the Senate for vote.
 - Items listed in SB37: An In-state committee will be formed to evaluate programs/courses, ban teaching certain topics, evaluate every degree based on return on investment, TX ombudsman office to be formed, and BoR responsibilities will increase.
- SAM – Hours of Work:
 - A language gap was found in UH's policy and not consistent with Texas law.
- Immigration and visas:
 - Need to look at how UH can help students academically (i.e., complete courses online, etc.).

A Q&A session followed with focus on dealing with teaching courses and SB37 impact, dismissal of faculty, SAM – Hour of Work vs. MAPP on workload, and defending academic freedom.

2. State of Academic Affairs Address with the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Diane Z. Chase](#)

SVP Diane Chase gave her presentation "Success through Innovation, Collaboration, Momentum".

- A Changing Higher Education Landscape
- A New Legislative Year
- Celebration of Excellence
- An Engaged Community
 - UH Day at the Capitol
- Committed to Excellence
- Innovation:
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Teaching Innovation Program Grants (AI-focused courses)
 - Research – FY2024 Awards (\$184M received in awards)
 - Research at UH

- Grants awarded to faculty (i.e., \$3.3M from NSF to support the development of STEM teachers, Dr. Paige Evans)
- Collaboration:
 - Recent Community Collaborations
 - Community Literacies Center
 - Community Health Workers Initiative
 - NASA MIRO – Inflatable Deployable Environments and Adaptive Space Systems (IDEAS²) Center
 - Coogs in Caracol (Archaeological Project, Belize)
 - Collaboration:
 - Consortium for Translational and Precision Health Centers and Institute
 - Impacto – Android App to Assist Smokers in Quitting
 - Third Ward Community Health Collaborative
 - CITE Success Stories
 - Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement
 - Application due April 21
 - Institutions notified December 2025
- Momentum:
 - Campus Growth
 - RAD – Retail, Auxiliary, and Dining Center
 - UH Sugar Land
 - New Hobby School Academic Building
 - Expanding UH's Reach - UH Katy Campus
 - Enrollment
 - Fall 2024: Record-breaking enrollment (47,980)
 - Spring 2025 was up
 - Ambassadors of Success – students
 - Truman Scholar, Gates Cambridge Scholar, Barry Goldwater Scholar, Fulbright Scholars (14 total), UH Phi Beta Kappa Chapter (104 inductees in 2025, 700+ total UH PBK Members)
 - UH Swimming & Diving Team Scholar All America Team Award
 - Cumulative 3.0 or higher GPA
 - Albert Schweitzer Fellows (7 students)
 - Student Support
 - Office of Undergraduate Research & Major Awards
 - Undergraduate Student Success (course redesign, fall 2024 progress report campaign, Knack tutoring platform)
 - 2024 Barefoot & Gardner Award (student success award to universities)
 - Ambassadors of Success – Faculty
 - Scholars Walk
 - Pulitzer Prize Recipient
 - Presidential Awards Recipients
 - National Academic Inventors Fellows
 - Strategic Faculty Hires
 - 34 PFF hires
 - President's Circle Awards
 - Faculty Support:
 - The FED
 - Faculty Excellence Award Celebration
 - Fall 2024 Faculty Celebration
 - Expedition UH (video)
 - Arte Público – largest publisher of Hispanic literature
 - UH Hilton and Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership

A Q&A session followed, which discussed the general public's perception of college faculty, DWIF courses, the plan going forward, and adding FED locations to the Sugar Land and Katy campuses.

3. 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 reported on the following items:

- April 30, 2025, noon, Export Control & International Travel Workshop (business & personal)
- Dept. of Energy (DOE) – 15% cut in IDC rate (temporary restraining order) – UH is watching closely
- President's skinny budget: budget cuts in federal agencies (UH is monitoring)
- Research security training is required for faculty who have DOE grants. Other federal agencies will follow. There are four modules in the mandatory training.
- DoR Functions
 - Looking into a ticketing system (model after the Graduate School's system)
 - Rules and responsibilities guidelines matrix
 - Time to completion (i.e., subaward set-up): Dr. Neuhauser encouraged faculty to email her with ideas.

A brief Q&A session followed about IDC reduction rates and how to account for that funding loss.

4. 2025 Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Service (New Senator) by Faculty Senate President: [Holley Love](#)

FS Pres. Holley Love acknowledged the following senators for their excellence in service to the Faculty Senate:

Senator Jerry Yang, Honorable Mention Award

Senator Andrew J. Pegoda, New Senator Award

5. Presentation of the Spring 2025 Faculty Senate Election Results, 2025 UH Grievance Committee Slate, & 2025 Faculty Senate Officer Candidate Slate by Faculty Governance Committee Chair: [Susie Gronseth](#)

- Spring 2025 Faculty Senate Election: The FGC certified the Senate election results on April 4th and FGC Chair Susie Gronseth presented the results as follows.

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture & Design:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| • Sam Clovis | GPSC |
| • Deepa Ramaswamy | UC |
| • Patrick Peters | At-Large |

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| • Rex Koontz, ART | RSC |
| • Margo Hickman, THEA | UC |
| • Laura Augusta, ART | At-Large |

C. T. Bauer College of Business:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| • Basheer Khumawala, DISC | At-Large |
|---------------------------|----------|

- Jaana Porra, DISC At-Large

College of Education:

- Blake Allan, PHLS GPSC
- Kristen Hassett, ELPS GPSC
- Jie Zhang, CUIN RSC
- Shea Culpepper, CUIN UC

Cullen College of Engineering:

- Hongyi Li, CIVE GPSC
- Badri Roysam, ECE RSC
- Brian Metrovich, ENGR UGRD PRG UC
- David Shattuck, ECE UC
- Stuart Long, ECE At-Large
- Consuelo Waight, HDCS At-Large

Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership:

- Jaewook Kim UC (1-year term)

The Honors College:

- Hayan Charara UC

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences:

- Sravana Borkataky-Varma, CCS UC
- Natalia Zhivan, ECON UC
- Maria Gonzalez, ENGL At-Large
- Kevin Haubrick, HHP At-Large
- Sally Paulson, HHP At-Large
- Allyson Schaff, COM At-Large
- Nancy Young, HIST At-Large

CLASS – RSC Social Sciences:

- Ashwini Joshi, COMD RSC

Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine:

- Maureen Grissom, Behavior-Soc Sci GPSC

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics:

- Oomman Varghese, PHYS GPSC
- Pavan Hosur, PHYS RSC
- Paige Evans, MATH UC
- Tejendra Gill, BIOLBCH UC
- Kevin Bassler, PHYS At-Large
- Mariam Manuel, MATH At-Large
- Shishir Shah, COSC At-Large
- Jerry Yang, CHEM At-Large

Andy & Barbara Gessner College of Nursing:

- Chanique Ecby GPSC
- Patricia Schrader At-Large (1-year term)

College of Optometry:

- John O'Brien RSC

College of Pharmacy:

- Matthew Wanat, PPTR GPSC
- Chenlin Hu, PPTR RSC
- Catherine Hatfield, PPTR At-Large

Hobby School of Public Affairs:

- Pablo Pinto RSC
- Alan Witt UC

Graduate College of Social Work:

- Jessica Bagneris At-Large

University Libraries:

- Mea Warren GPSC

Faculty Senate election results are posted on the Faculty Senate website:

<https://uh.edu/faculty-senate/resources-and-publications/faculty-senate-elections/>.

FGC Chair Susie Gronseth congratulated the newly-elected and re-elected senators on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

- UH Faculty Grievance Committee Slate was certified by the FGC on April 14th and presented as follows:
 - Vijay Yerramilli, BUS
 - Lila Carden, ENGR
 - Eva Harth, NSM
 - Ongjen Miljanic, NSM
 - Rachel Redfern Rump, OPT
 - Brad McConnell, PHA
 - Ruiwen Zhang, PHA

- 2025 FS Officer Candidate and FGC Candidate slates were presented.
 - EC Slate - no nominations were made from the floor
 - FGC Candidate Slate: no nominations were made from the floor

Senators will be notified by email when the elections have been launched. Results will be shared at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

6. President-elect Candidate Speeches

- Bradley Davis, EDU/ELPS
- Melissa Markofski, CLASS/HHP

The candidates introduced themselves and spoke about what they would like to accomplish during their presidency and priority issues facing higher education shared governance and UH.

7. Report from and Discussion with Faculty Senate President: [Holley Love](#)

- SAM – Hours of Work: The proposed policy will be vetted by faculty via the UCC early next week. Need to focus on consistent, concrete language. FS Pres. Holley Love encouraged senators to submit suggested language to her.
- SB37: banding together with universities (i.e., TCFS); get individuals (as private individuals) to share their concerns about SB37 with the TX House Committee.
- FS Officer Candidates Meet and Greet on April 23, 2025, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Faculty Café

8. New Business

None

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.