



**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Susie Gronseth called the March 20, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (101)

ARCH: J. Feng, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
ARTS: R. Bush, R. Koontz, T. Van Keckerix
BUS: B. Carlin, B. Khumawala, B. Li, H. Lin, A. Lish, M. Murray, Y. Tan
EDU: B. Davis, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, A. Peters-Hawkins
ENGR: G. Aksu, D. Burleson, C. Chang, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, S. Long, H. Love, F. Merchant, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, X. Yuan
GHL: P. Guchait, Y. Koh
HON: D. Price
CLASS: J. Babcock, F. Bunta, L. Camaj, A. Castilla-Earls, P. Chakrabarti, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, M. Cottingham, C. Ferrell, H. Glass, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, V. Maheshri, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, A. Thrasher
LIB: K. Creelman, T. Davis-Van Atta, V. Douglas, L. Martin, A. Santiago, S. Thompson, M. Warren
COM: O. Adepoju, D. Curtis, G. Gomez, B. King, K. Pilkinton
NSM: M. Almus, K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, R. Capuano, L. Farmer, E. Harth, R. Lee, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, G. Morrison, J. Subhlok, A. Vershynina, B. Xhabli, J. Yang
CON: C. Brohard, L. McWilliams, P. Schrader
OPT: T. Ferreira, R. Manny, J. O'Brien, J. Porter, C. Ribelayga
PHA: D. Chow, J. Hao, A. Marwaha, B. McConnell, M. Trivedi, G. Udugamasooriya
HSPA: C. Bronk
GCSW: S. Ali, S. Narendorf
RES CTRS: S. Chung
RES FAC: O. Bannova

MEMBERS ABSENT: (37)

ARCH: D. Froehlich
ARTS: J. Derges, D. Robinson
BUS: S. Basu, J. Porra, Y. Zhao
EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, V. Rangel
ENGR: M. Burns, S. Joshi, A. Lendasse, T. Liao, D. Litvinov, S. Pei, Y. Yao
GHL: M. Lee, T. Legendre, J. Madera
HON: D. Gish
LAW: K. Brem, D. Fagundes
CLASS: W. Breslin, M. Cuesta, P. Gutierrez, D. Womble, L. Zhu
NSM: J. Brgoch, A. Caglar, A. Czader, S. Gilbertson, T. Gill, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison
COM: B. King

GUESTS: Sydney Baker (Institutional Research), Raymond Bartlett (SVC/SVP, Administration & Finance), Jim Briggs (Assoc. Provost, Faculty Affairs), Diane Z. Chase (SVP & Provost, Academic Affairs), Michael Crook (Ctr for Student Advocacy & Community), Celina Dugas (Veteran Services), Mike Emery (Univ. Communication), Christina Gola (Interim Dean, University Libraries), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Sabrina Hassumani (Assoc. Provost, Admin. & Finance/Academic Affairs), Lisa Holdeman (VP, Marketing & Communication), Michael Johnson (Chief of Staff, UH President's Office), Renu Khator (President, UH), Paul Kittle (Vice President, Student Affairs), Sarah Larsen (Dean, UH Graduate School), Claudia Neuhauser (Interim VC/VP for Research), Marti Trummer-Cabrera (CAPS)

Approval of Minutes: February 14, 2024 Meeting

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

Pres. Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- FAFSA form is still delayed. Most universities have extended their admissions deadline (UH is doing the same). Currently, UH has received over 38,000 applications for fall 2024.
- Budget Challenges in Higher Education: Universities are facing budget challenges and enrollment is one factor. Some institutions have used one-time pandemic funds for recurring costs and are now declaring financial problems. UH did not use pandemic funds in this manner.
- DEI Legislation: Hearings haven't been called yet, but UH anticipates that DEI legislation will return to the legislative agenda.
- Several universities have reinstated SAT requirements (i.e., University of Texas – Austin). UH has not reinstated its SAT requirements, it is still optional.
- Texas Tech University had placed one of their assistant professors on suspension due to his social media post on the Hamas-Israel conflict. The Chronicle of Higher Education covered this case if senators are interested.
- UH Alumnus (1949) & former Board of Regent Chair Welcome Wilson Sr. passed away recently. He hired President Khator in 2008 and during her first three years at UH, helped establish Dr. Khator's presence in the State's legislature and the Houston community.
- Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine:
 - Medical School LCME visit is currently ongoing.
 - On March 15, 2024, the first graduating class will receive their residency matches (100% found residency slots).
- UH administration is working on UH's legislative priorities:
 - Request for funding four building projects (Optometry, Medicine, Sugar Land, Katy)
 - Working with other systems to go on deferred maintenance to obtain HEAF (enhance for UH).
- The RAD Center: Phase one is open (the coffee shop & convenience store). The rest of the center will open in fall 2024.
- College Athletics:
 - Four major lawsuits ongoing relating to student-athletes payout (i.e., students not receiving back pay, not being treated fairly, etc.). Lawsuits are concerning because lawsuit settlements involve millions of dollars and will change the landscape of college athletics.
 - UH Men's Basketball is currently ranked #2 in the nation (first season in the Big 12).
 - UH Football coach has been attending events and working hard to promote the football team.

Report from and Discussion 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 Chase thanked the senators, staff, and faculty for enhancing student success this spring. She mentioned that she is looking forward to working with the campus community on student success for this summer and fall terms.

Provost Diane Chase reported on the following items:

- Summer Funding: The Provost Office had approved all requests submitted for summer funding and asked for more courses. Currently, there is a healthy summer enrollment.
- Promotion & Tenure Reviews: Dr. Chase thanked senators and faculty who served on P&T committees (at various levels). She will begin reviewing sixty-two finalized files of professors who are up for promotion and tenure.
- Searches:
 - Dean of the Graduate College of Social Work search is underway.
 - VP for Health Affairs & College of Medicine Dean – candidate airport interviews are starting.
 - VP for Division of Research – the search committee is meeting next week and will discuss next steps.
- Provost Chase mentioned that she will be giving her annual presentation at the Senate's April meeting. She encouraged senators to email ideas on topics they would like for her to talk about.

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](#)

SVP Raymond Bartlett reported on the following items:

- Deferred Maintenance Funding (HEAF):
 - UH is finishing a 10-year cycle ending in fiscal year 2025. SVP Bartlett will be working with his counterparts at other Texas universities and with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to make the case for increasing funding for higher education to the State legislature.
- Cougar Textbook Access Program (CTAP):
 - Piloted program spring 2022
 - Saved over \$10 million for students. UH published a media release about the success of the program and the local Fox News heard about it. The news team will be on campus next week to interview the community about this program. He thanked the faculty for their participation in CTAP.
- Technologies and Efficiencies:
 - Due to cost pressures, UH needs to run business processes more efficiently. Many of the business processes are under the division of Administration & Finance. Raymond Bartlett has taken the lead in starting the conversation. He thanked the senators for their collaboration with his team as UH moves forward in the future to improve the many business processes on the campus.

- Raymond Bartlett acknowledged Senator Donna Pattison for volunteering to help update the travel website (create a clear and simple website for guidance to the UH community).
- There are plans to change the HR Taleo employment application tracking system. The replacement system should have AI capabilities for efficient application review.
- E-Solicitation for Procurement: Raymond Bartlett's team has finalized vendor selection for E-solicitation for the procurement process.

Q&A session followed which focused on: data regarding textbook use before CTAP, opting in CTAP, inserting CTAP experience in the instructor's evaluation, and Taleo sunset timeline.

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

VP Claudia Neuhauser reported on the following items:

- The Executive Director of Research Integrity & Oversight (RIO) position has been filled. Jamie Peno started work last Monday.
- Continuing process improvement on OCG functions
- Core Facilities:
 - The Electron Microscopy facility will open in January (starting to build the lab).
 - Working on imaging facility
- Research Security
 - Export Control officer has been hired to help faculty with international travel issues, and flag high-risk activities.
 - Export Control travel form available
- Research Forums
 - April 5th, 12 noon

ORCID Presentation: [Sydney Baker](#), Program Director II, Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Sydney Baker gave a presentation on the ORCID initiative:

- An ORCID ID can disambiguate your scholarly works
- Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) are required
- Goal is 100% Full-time faculty participation
- Create.Affiliate.Link
 - How to create id
 - How to link ORCID id to Scopus & Web of Science (InCites)
- ORCID Initiative seeks to increase UH's research output to become a Top 50 Public University.
- UPDATE: ORCID Survey Participation: 461 out of 1681 full-time faculty participated in the survey

Presentation and Discussion with University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Student Affairs: [Paul Kittle](#)

Dr. Paul Kittle gave a brief introduction of himself. He commented that the Division of Student Affairs wants students to be engaged in the campus community. Student Affairs helps build bridges for students to make their paths easier.

➤ **Center for Student Advocacy and Community, Michael Crook, Director**

- Mission and Vision, Est. 9/1/2023
- Community Building Student Mixers: WoW, Student Mixers, etc.
- Programming related Cultural Heritage Celebrations/Observances
- Title V – Dept. Education Federal Designations
- CSAC Resource Appointments

➤ **Cougar Cupboard, Jessica Haney, Program Director**

- Established 4 years ago
- 30 lbs. of groceries each person each week
- Offers: nutrition workshops, recipes, food guides, additional resources
- 10,887 visits in fall 2023; 10,561 visits in spring 2023
- UH Students have unmet basic needs
- Food insecurity

➤ **Veteran Services, Celina Dugas, Program Director**

- Mission
- Professional Staff, VA peer counselors, student veterans of America
- Student Veterans: A valuable asset to Higher Education
- Key programs & services (computer lab, printing services, study area, meeting space)
- Food insecurity: small pantry of snacks
- Military and Veteran Culture Competency Training
- Develop strong leaders

UH Mental Health Update Presentation by Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): [Marti Trummer-Cabrera, Assistant Director for Outreach](#)

Dr. Marti Trummer-Cabrera gave a presentation on the following UH Mental Health update.

- UH Mental Health Services (Free in-person or telehealth appointments)
- New 24/7 Mental Health Services
 - Togetherall (similar to reddit monitored by clinicians, anonymous)
 - welltrack boost app: self-help tools (i.e., check mood, etc.), free for students, free to anyone with a cougar net account (however, more geared toward students).
- CAPS Let's Talk: mental health consultation

- JED Campus:
 - Increase help-serving behaviors
 - Step UP Mental Health
 - Community Mental Health Resource Fair
 - UH CAPS Liaisons
 - You can help a Coog Training

Q&A session followed.

Report from and Discussion by UH Faculty Senate President: [Susie Gronseth](#)

- UH Day of Remembrance, March 19, 2024, remembrance of UH community members who have passed on.
- Surveys:
 - Faculty Climate Survey – being finalized & will be launched soon.
 - Computer Software Survey initiated by the Administration Subcommittee of the Budget & Facilities Committee will be launched soon.
- Faculty Senate Service Award – Call for nominations is still open.
- APeX Call for Nominations will end soon.
- April 17, 2024 Spring Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting. Lunch will be generously provided by Provost Chase.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.