



**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Susie Gronseth called the September 18, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: (120)

ARCH: J. Feng, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
ARTS: R. Bush, J. Derges, R. Koontz, K. Vlahos
BUS: B. Carlin, W. Chin, B. Khumawala, H. Lin, A. Lish, M. Murray, Y. Zhao
EDU: C. Arbona, B. Davis, S. Gronseth, M. Hale, K. Hassett, A. Peters-Hawkins, N. Smith, V. Snodgrass Rangel
ENGR: G. Aksu, D. Burleson, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, S. Joshi, T. Liao, P. Lindner, D. Litvinov, S. Long, H. Love, F. Merchant, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, J. Zhang
GHL: P. Guchait, Y. Koh, M. Lee, J. Madera, C. Taylor
HON: D. Price, B. Rayder
CLASS: J. Babcock, A. Badas, F. Bunta, T. Chatagnier, P. Cirino, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, S. Gellon, H. Glass, A. Golubev, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, M. Markofski, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, C. Sisk, A. Thrasher, D. Womble
LAW: E. Berman, K. Brem, S. Chandler, R. Knake Jefferson
LIB: L. Martin, S. Thompson, M. Warren
COM: O. Adepoju, D. Curtis, G. Gomez
NSM: K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, R. Capuano, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, R. Forrest, T. Gill, E. Harth, R. Lee, C. Lin, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, G. Morrison, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison, R. Stewart, J. Subhlok, J. Yang
CON: D. Smith
OPT: T. Ferreira, R. Manny, C. Nguyen, J. O'Brien, L. Ostrin, J. Porter, C. Ribelayga
PHA: D. Chow, J. Hao, A. Marwaha, B. McConnell, V. Tam, M. Tejada Simon, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
HSPA: C. Bronk
GCSW: J. Berger Cardoso
RES CTRS: J. Brgoch
RES FAC: M. Ishibashi

MEMBERS ABSENT: (25)

ARTS: A. Cachia, D. Robinson, T. Van Kekerix
BUS: B. Li
HON: R. Sharp
CLASS: W. Breslin, A. Castilla-Earls, A. Christensen, E. Goodin-Mayeda, L. Leasure, V. Maheshri
LIB: V. Douglas, A. Santiago
NSM: B. Bodmann, L. Farmer, S. Gilbertson
COM: B. King, K. Pilkinton

GUESTS: Jim Briggs (Assoc. Provost, Faculty Affairs), Diane Z. Chase (SVP & Provost, Academic Affairs), Katherine Carter (Univ. Libraries), Chris Dawe (Asst. VP, Student Health & Wellness), Mike Emery (Univ. Marketing & Communications), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Lisa Holdeman (VP Marketing & Comm), Susan Hoover (Univ. Libraries), Mike Johnson (Chief of Staff, President's Office), Renu Khator (President, UH), Suresh Khator (Sr. Associate Dean, ENGR), Sarah Larsen (Dean, Graduate School), Karla Lira-Moore (History/CLASS), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost & Dean, Undergrad Student Success), Anna Matynia (OPT), Claudia Neuhauser (Interim VC/VP for Research), Reuben Parrish (UH Wellness), Anna Vershynina (MATH/CLASS)

Approval of Minutes: May 8, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the May 8th Faculty Senate meeting were approved as distributed.

1. Special Acknowledgement of 2023-2024 FS Executive Committee: [Susie Gronseth](#)

FS Pres. Susie Gronseth presented appreciation plaques to the Executive Committee in recognition of their contributions during the 2023-2024 academic year.

*Diana Chow, RSC Chair
Ann Christensen, CGRC Chair
Arturo Hernandez, FAC Chair
Julia Kleinheider, Secretary
Michael Murray, UC Chair
Donna Pattison, Member at Large
Patrick Peters, BFC Chair
Jason Porter, Member at Large
David Shattuck, FGC Chair
Anna Vershynina, GPSC Chair*

2. Farewell Address by the 2023-2024 Faculty Senate President: [Susie Gronseth](#)

FS Pres. Susie Gronseth gave her farewell address in which she expressed that she found her two years of service (as president-elect and president) deeply rewarding and thanked the senators, senior administration, colleagues, and staff for their dedication to shared governance working alongside her.

3. Passing of the University Commencement Mace by outgoing Faculty Senate President: [Susie Gronseth](#)

Out-going FS President Susie Gronseth passed the UH Commencement mace to incoming FS President Holley Love to welcome the officer transition.

4. Presentation of Gavel Plaque by incoming Faculty Senate President: [Holley Love](#)

2024-2025 Faculty Senate President Holley Love presented 2023-2024 Faculty Senate President Susie Gronseth with a gavel plaque honoring her leadership to the Faculty Senate and dedication to shared governance.

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

Pres. Khator thanked Dr. Susie Gronseth for her leadership. She mentioned that she will present a gift to her at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Pres. Khator congratulated Dr. Holley Love for taking on the Faculty Senate leadership role and she looked forward to working with her and moving UH forward.

Pres. Renu Khator reported on the following items:

- Challenges of Higher Education continue:

- Value of education
- How to engage and educate future generations?
- Who should/will fund education (esp. with higher education institutions cutting budgets)?
- State Legislature:
 - Pres. Khator will present and defend UH's budget request:
 - Base funding (factor in enrollment & inflation); She thanked faculty for their help: enrollment is high for fall 2024 (will reflect in FY 2026 budget).
- Enrollment:
 - 42,000 students applied to UH; 6200 freshmen students were enrolled – highest record ever at UH
 - Students who weren't admitted to UH main campus were given the option to apply at one of the other UH System campuses.
 - Challenges: Students are leaving UH after 1 or 2 years, UH needs to move to 90% retention rate and to 70% graduation rate (need to continue finding ways to improve). She thanked and urged faculty to continue their hard work on student success.
- October 9, 2024 State of University Address, Moores Opera House, 10am:
 - Present new University data
 - Centennial Planning Update (academic aspect)

Q&A session followed with senators inquiring about funding for faculty salaries, increasing graduate stipends, and increasing international student enrollment.

6. 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](#)

Provost Chase echoed Pres. Khator's comments and thanked the faculty for their hard work on student enrollment growth.

Provost Diane Chase reported on the following items:

- Enrollment:
 - Master enrollment needs to increase: will try a few creative things for spring 2025.
 - Reasons for increased enrollment for fall: many reasons (i.e., offered courses that students needed, Big 12?, smooth Cougar move-in, orientations, etc.).
- Goals: 70% graduation, 90% retention
 - Commission on Student Success: Faculty Senate, SGA, and Provost Office participative collaboration on student issues and ideas of student success.
 - Software:
 - Simple Syllabus – available in December 2025; Students have expressed their desire to see course syllabi as early as possible to know more about the course.
 - Lightcast – software that tracks what students do after they leave UH.
- Searches:
 - GCSW Dean search: search committee completed the job description and will be posted soon.
 - BUS Dean search: the search committee is drafting the job description.
- Centennial: academic programming will be discussed in a few weeks
- Presidential Frontier Faculty Program – 22 PFFs lines approved, and a search is taking place to fill these positions.

Q&A session followed with Sen. Khumawala giving praise about the Provost's "Student Profiles" where students meet with Provost Chase to talk about their experiences as a UH Cougar. Dr. Khumawala mentioned that he received positive feedback from parents of students.

7. 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:

- Developing new research priorities (removed research matrix from DoR website): priorities will be inclusive in all disciplines (7 directions)
 - She will discuss these priorities with the Research & Scholarship Committee (RSC).
 - There will be a comment cycle so that faculty can provide feedback.
- Core Facilities:
 - The Electron Microscopy Facility will open January 2025
 - Imaging Facilities: making a few changes
 - Core facilities at the Tech Bridge: deferred maintenance
- External Consultants: Looking at different consultants for research support.
- DoR Functions:
 - Invoicing: working on catching up on the backlog of processing invoices. PeopleSoft Grants module is not functioning and will need to be rebuilt. DoR staff are manually processing invoices and should be caught up soon.
- Research Forum:
 - Will continue to offer forums on a monthly basis regarding DoR processes and training for research administrators and faculty.
- Research Security:
 - Required research training: federal agencies will require researchers to have security training.
 - DoR offers research security training modules through CITI program. VP Neuhauser encouraged faculty to complete the training courses.

8. WISHES – Well-being Improvement Survey for Higher Education Settings Presentation: [Reuben Parrish](#), Director, UH Wellness

Reuben Parrish gave a presentation on the WISHES survey that measures students' perception on engagement with the campus community, health/well-being, support and resources. Collecting data from this survey will help UH find ways to improve current processes, etc. so that students can thrive. Mr. Parrish said that the plan is to administer the survey this fall. Q&A discussion followed.

9. Inaugural Address by the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate President: [Holley Love](#)

FS President Holley Love gave her inaugural address with the theme of faculty wellness, and how this could impact student success. She gave a few examples of how faculty wellness/student success could be achieved:

- Student Success
 - Student Commission – collaborative group of faculty, SGA, and the Provost's Office
 - Annual scheduling, syllabus management tool
 - Joint collaboration FAC, GPSC, UC on student perception of classroom instruction
- Faculty Wellness
 - 2024 Faculty Climate Survey
 - Texas Council of Faculty Senates meeting (TCFS)
 - UHS Faculties Executive Council (UFEC)
 - Conversations with the Division of Student Affairs
 - Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) proposals from the 2023-2024 academic year
 - Joint BFC-FAC collaboration
 - Enhanced faculty engagement
 - Faculty-Staff homecoming tailgate on October 26, 2024

- Carnegie Elective Classification in Community Engagement
- Paws Up Profs encouraging Cougar spirit

FS President Holley Love closed her inaugural address by thanking the senators and guests for attending the Faculty Senate meeting.

10. New Business - None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.