



**Fall Faculty Assembly & Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, November 20, 2024  
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Holley Love called the October 16, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (118)**

- ARCH: J. Feng, D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
- ARTS: A. Cachia, J. Derges, J. Jansen, R. Koontz, K. Vlahos
- BUS: S. Basu, B. Carlin, B. Khumawala, H. Lin, A. Lish, M. Murray, M. Stewart, Y. Zhao
- EDU: C. Arbona, S. Brower, B. Davis, T. Fedor Amador, S. Gronseth, K. Hassett, A. Peters-Hawkins, N. Smith, V. Snodgrass Rangel
- ENGR: G. Aksu, R. Ballarini, D. Burluson, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, T. Liao, P. Lindner, D. Liu, S. Long, H. Love, F. Merchant, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, J. Zhang
- GHL: Y. Koh, C. Taylor
- HON: M. Hanke, D. Price, B. Rayder
- LAW: E. Berman, K. Brem, S. Chandler, R. Knake Jefferson
- CLASS: J. Babcock, A. Badas, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, A. Castilla-Earls, A. Christensen, P. Cirino, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, H. Glass, A. Golubev, E. Goodin-Mayeda, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, L. Leasure, M. Markofski, D. Mazella, A. Pegoda, C. Sisk, A. Thrasher, D. Womble
- LIB: L. Martin, A. Santiago, S. Thompson, M. Warren
- COM: D. Curtis, G. Gomez
- NSM: T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, A. Czader, B. Dauwalder, R. Forrest, E. Harth, R. Lee, C. Lin, A. Medrano, O. Miljanic, G. Morrison, E. Papadakis, D. Pattison, C. Wayne, J. Yang
- CON: D. Smith
- OPT: T. Ferreira, R. Manny, C. Nguyen, J. O'Brien, L. Ostrin, J. Porter, C. Ribelayga
- PHA: J. Hao, A. Marwaha, V. Tam, M. Tejada Simon, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
- HSPA: C. Bronk
- RES CTRS: J. Brgoch
- RES FAC: M. Ishibashi

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (33)**

- ARTS: R. Bush, D. Robinson, T. Van Kekerix
- BUS: W. Chin, B. Li, X. Ma
- EDU: M. Hale
- ENGR: S. Joshi, D. Litvinov, Y. Yao, G. Zouridakis
- GHL: M. Lee, J. Madera
- HON: R. Sharp
- CLASS: T. Chatagnier, S. Gellon, A. Hernandez, V. Maheshri, V. Ng
- COM: O. Adepoju, B. King, K. Pilkinton
- NSM: K. Bassler, R. Capuano, L. Farmer, S. Gilbertson, T. Gill, R. Meisel, J. Subhlok
- PHA: D. Chow, B. McConnell

GCSW: J. Berger Cardoso

**GUESTS:** Muriel Bernardi (ENGL), Rikki Bettinger (HON), Jim Briggs (Assoc. Provost, Faculty Affairs), Diane Z. Chase (SVP & Provost, Academic Affairs), Kerry Creelman (Univ. Libraries), Mike Emery (Univ. Marketing & Communications), Linda Garcia Merchant (Univ. Libraries), Maria Gonzalez (ENGL), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Lisa Holdeman (VP Marketing & Comm), Susan Hoover (Univ. Libraries), Mike Johnson (Chief of Staff, President's Office), Ashwini Joshi (COMD), Renu Khator (President, UH), Suresh Khator (Sr. Associate Dean, ENGR), Sarah Larsen (Dean, Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost, Undergrad Student Success), Claudia Neuhauser (VP for Research), Dan O'Connor (Dean, CLASS), Sally Paulson (HHP), J. R. Rao (ENGR), Christa Rieck (Facilities, Planning, & Construction), Susan Scarrow (Associate Dean, CLASS), Donna Stokes (Associate Dean, NSM), Jim Taylor (University Architect)

### **Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2024 Meeting**

The minutes of the October 16, 2024 meeting were approved as distributed.

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

President Khator reported on the following items:

- National Updates:
  - Federal Updates
  - Research funding (reduce indirect cost by 28%) – there will be a shift with the new administration arriving in 2025. UH will continue to watch the situation and position the University to continue its mission.
  - Settlement on CA Lawsuit against athletic power 5 conferences: Judge has conditionally agreed to the settlement.
- Settlement on CA Lawsuit:
  - Past damages to be paid to student-athletes (2016 to present, NIL compensation). April 2025 will be the final judgment; Pres. Khator also reported on sharing revenue and Title IX issues with NIL. UH will continue to closely watch the rapidly changing national college athletics scene.
- UH Funding Requests:
  - Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that the tuition freeze will be extended. UH challenge is to make the case for the relevancy of higher education.
    - UH will ask the state for health HEAF funding: new OPT building, COM building for student clinical rotations, and the colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy also have space needs.
    - TRIP Funding (\$135M) will help fund research.
- State Legislative Session: January 14, 2025, Pres. Khator will spend two days every week to advocate for and increase the visibility of UH.
- UH Katy:
  - UHV will build a Victoria destination campus and leave the Katy campus.
  - Potential for UH Katy – ask the State for funding to expand programs in Katy
- BOR Meeting, Nov.21, 2024
  - Pres. Khator will ask the BOR for approval: A one-time payment of \$2,000 to faculty and staff who earn \$100K or less before the winter break. Pres. Khator thanked SVP Raymond Bartlett for helping to make this effort possible.
- Athletics:
  - UH Cougars vs. Baylor Football Game; wearing blue in honor of Houston.
  - Basketball season has started
- Dec. 6, 2024, Faculty Open House, Wortham House, 6pm

A brief Q&A session followed.

**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 reported on the following items:

- Provost Chase thanked everyone who attended the fall faculty celebration on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Simple Syllabus: This system will be implemented later in summer 2025; There will be training in the sandbox during spring 2025.
- Enrollment:
  - Up 3% SCH for spring 2025 (important for formula funding)
  - Having student success meetings (undergraduate and graduate success) – focusing on:
    - Retention
    - Graduation
  - Freshmen enrollment is looking strong
    - The number of applications is up substantially
    - FAFSA has been rolled out.

A brief Q&A session followed.

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

VP Neuhauser reported on the following items:

- Federal Updates:
  - Recent executive order restricts what UH can do with these countries seen as foreign adversaries (China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia). VP Neuhauser's office is working with Legal Affairs on guidance on how this executive order will affect UH (i.e., contracts, travel, etc.). The executive order goes into effect immediately.
- With the new federal administration arriving in January, Dr. Neuhauser encouraged faculty to get involved in shaping UH's research agenda.
- DoR Functions
  - Hired new staff and are training them. DoR is streamlining processes (shorter, more efficient). DOR is on time with invoicing.
- Core Facilities:
  - Electron Microscopy Facility will be online in spring 2025.
  - Imaging Facility: faculty signed off on what equipment they want.
- Contract with Hanover
  - Help with proposal preparation and workshops
  - Hanover was invited to the January 23, 2025 research forum

A brief Q&A session followed.

**Master Centennial Planning Presentation: [Christa Rieck](#) (Assistant Vice Chancellor/Assistant Vice President, Facilities Planning & Construction) and [Jim Taylor](#) (University Architect)**

**Centennial Project: Finding Innovation in the 'Space in Between'.**

AVP Christa Rieck presented a brief overview of the Centennial construction planning.

**Jim Taylor:**

- **The Why: The “Space Between’ – Efforts to innovate**
  - **First Investment (image 1936 – reflection pool**
  - **Tree Canopy Over Time (1944 – 2022)**
    - **First objective of the planning is to restore the tree canopy**
  - Project Principles:
    - Create a strong first impression (gateway monuments with UH seal, etc.)
    - Celebrate the heart & life of the university (
    - Build a walkable, welcoming, memorable campus (begins by having parking at the perimeter)
    - Connect people, places & disciplines (have an anchoring green space to connect the districts)
    - Design a sustainable & resilient campus (LEED buildings, stormwater catchment, wellness loops)
  - The Centennial Project: A \$40 Million Investment
- **The What: Campus Transformations**
  - Listening Sessions with Campus Stakeholders
    - **What We Heard: Common Themes**
      - Create Pedestrian Friendly Streetscapes and crossings, Improve shade, etc.
      - Design Considerations: -- Shade, Outdoor Study spaces, native landscapes, flex spaces, editing spaces
    - **Three Anchor spaces:**
      - University Drive (people first, limit & change vehicular access, shaded spaces, etc.)
      - Centennial Plaza (Concept Plan) - Reflection Pool/Removal of Farish Hall
      - Wilhelmina’s Grove – Concept Scheme
        - Amphitheatre lawn facing a pavilion
    - **New Capital Projects 2024-2027**
      - New Dining Commons
      - Student Housing
      - Innovation Hub
      - Arts Walk
  - End: The Space Between: People and Place First

Q&A session and discussion followed.

**Academic Celebration Centennial Planning: [Dan O’Connor](#) and [Donna Stokes](#) (co-chairs of aforesaid committee)**

- **Academic Programming Committee: Co-Chairs Dan O’Connor & Donna Stokes**
  - The committee is just starting its work. Will meet today and solidify the structure. Planning will begin in January 2025 and continue in the next three years.
  - Steering Committee: faculty, staff, students, and partners around campus – make sure the entire UH community is engaged (maybe 20 members and broken down into subcommittees).
  - Moving Forward: Poll campus with a survey:
    - Questions with topics areas of focus, events (social, cultural, athletic, other), preferred time for events (weekends, Fridays, etc.), and what should be highlighted.

- Engagement:
  - Possible interest campaign
  - Continued Engagement throughout the year
    - Scavenger hunts, swag, incentive for scholarships, course-driven incentives offered to students (need faculty buy-in)
- Events:
  - 10 to 12 events planned
  - College events can serve as major events
  - Community building events (staff recognition day, undergrad/grad day, etc.)
- Action Events:
  - Meeting with Centennial Planning Team – UH Marketing (Nov. 20, 2024)
  - Select committee and subcommittee members (early December)
  - Create a survey (mid-December)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting (late January)
  - Present a major plan to President Khator in a year.

Q&A session followed.

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

- UH 2.0 Commission co-chairs were unable to attend today's meeting and will update the Faculty Senate in a future meeting. FS Pres. Holley Love encouraged senators and faculty to send comments so that she could share them with the commission.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment:** 1:59 p.m.