

**University Life Committee (ULC)**

Minutes – November 21, 2024, Meeting

Meeting called to order 2:00pm

Approval of Minutes – Statement read

**Members in Attendance**

Anne Gessler, Yolanda Edmond, Natalie Pecknold, Gene Shan, Lisa Sublett, Sheeba Thomas, L. Jean Walker, Yi Su, Michelle Giles, Stephanie Holleran

**Alternate Members/Guests in Attendance**

Miguel Venegas, Bernie Streeter, Yolanda Nimmer-Williams, Stacy Zellner

**Members & Alternate Absent**

Louisa Beck, Erika De Leon, Benjamin Franz, Preeti Jain, Russell Miller, Matthew Perry, Stephen Sabu, Reece Tuscano, Alexandria Kennedy, Queinnise Miller, Andrea Black, Andrew Weimer, Tina Powellson

**Minutes**

**1. Called to Order**

The meeting was called to order by chair Dr. Anne Gessler.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Gessler motion to approve October 17, 2024, minutes. Minutes were approved by Natlie Pecknold and Bernie Streeter.

**3. Old Business**

- a. Review Chief Russell Miller’s revised MAPS
  - i. UHCL Map 01.F.08 Violence on Campus

In the absence of Chief Miller (Stacy Zellner reported that this policy has been in development over the summer in response to the need for alignment with other campuses. Our campus currently lacks a formal policy, and this draft mirrors similar guidelines in place at the University of Houston Main Campus, with minor adjustments to define the scope more clearly.

Chief Miller is seeking feedback from the Committee regarding the language or any areas that may require further clarification.

**Suggestions for Policy Revision – Exclusion Zone and Campus Carry Link**

- 1. "Exclusion zone" is mentioned but not defined. Including a formal definition would improve clarity, especially as this is a standalone policy.
- 2. Add a link to the campus carry policy at the end of Section One, similar to how sexual misconduct incidents are linked. This would provide clearer guidance on how these matters are addressed within the broader campus regulations.

### **Feedback on Firearms and Weapons Policy**

1. Section G mentions "verbal reference to firearms or other weapons," but the following sentence only refers to "handgun possession," suggesting clarifying the language.
2. The term "other weapons" is unclear, suggested renaming this section to "prohibited weapons" to clarify that it refers to weapons not allowed under campus carry policies.
3. Suggested to clarify which items are everyday items that would be used with intent to harm.
4. There is no provision for self-defense.

Comments will be forwarded to Chief Miller, as some aspects are already addressed in the Texas Penal Code. Approval for changes are not required due that it has already been passed through council. The policy will be sent back to Chief Miller for clarification on those questions. The committee has motioned to table the policy for the January 2025 meeting.

#### ii. UHCL MAP 01.F.06 Interim Essential Personnel

The changes to the Essential Personnel Policy are minor, primarily updating office terms and personnel titles. However, Chief Miller has asked if there are any questions or comments before we approve the motion. There were no comments suggested therefore, a motion was made to approve the map, motion passes.

#### b. Review Miguel Venegas's UHCL Temporary Food Permit Guideline

- i. ULC Staff Representative Miguel Venegas presented UHCL's Temporary Food Permit Guideline and welcomed feedback from the committee on the wording for clarity. The guidelines are currently live and will be reinforced beginning January 1, 2025.

The purpose of the temporary food permit guidelines: when faculty, staff, students, and /or visitors want to cook and/or distribute food on UHCL property, steps must be taken to ensure food is purchased, handled, prepared, and served safely according to state and federal food regulations for the public. The university has developed the UHCL Temporary Food Permit Guidelines (TFP-Guidelines) to address these concerns and fulfill state requirements.

The UHCL Temporary Food Permit Guidelines do not in any way replace or supersede food safety and health regulations set forth by any city, county, state of Texas, or federal regulations. Where this guideline or local regulation sets stricter standards, the stricter standard shall be followed.

The guidelines were developed by the Environmental Health and Safety Subcommittee of FSS. The guidelines are being implemented to align with the

other UH System universities and as procedural updates and do not require Shared Governance approval.

Following recent feedback regarding the temporary food permit guidelines, we would like to provide some clarifications and outline steps to improve communication.

**1. Clarification on Small Group Gatherings and Exemptions**

There were questions regarding whether the policy applies to small groups (2 to 10 people), such as colleagues sharing food from an outside restaurant, and the risks associated with handling restaurant food. The current guidelines do not clearly define exemptions for smaller gatherings versus larger public events.

In response, we want to clarify that the policy primarily applies when food is distributed to the general public. Individuals handling food at such events must obtain a permit to ensure compliance with safety regulations. However, this requirement does not apply to private gatherings among coworkers or small groups. The focus remains on public events where food safety and distribution regulations are necessary.

**2. Communication Plan for Compliance Updates**

Miguel noted that the updated guidelines are now live on the Environmental Health and Safety webpage and will be reinforced starting January 1, 2025. However, concerns were raised about the need to communicate this update more broadly to staff, faculty, and students.

To ensure comprehensive awareness, it was recommended that we distribute the information through multiple channels, such as newsletters, campus-wide notices, or other direct communications. This proactive approach will help ensure everyone is informed and prepared ahead of the official implementation date.

**4. New Business/Announcements**

a. Updating ULC roster.

Note: There are two ULC vacant alternate positions for the library and USA. Both areas have been notified and will nominate replacements. USA expects to provide a member by the January 2025 meeting.

Also; no meeting will be held in December 2024.

Meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,