

UHCL Faculty Assembly Meeting

March 22, 2018 Minutes

Forest Room

Dr. Brian Stephens called the meeting to order.

Dr. Stephens introduced President Ira K. Blake, who gave a general overview of where UHCL is headed. Dr. Blake stated that we have launched our Capital Campaign and are highlighting four main priorities: Engaged Teaching, Inspired Learning, Fearless Imagination, and Emerging Opportunities. She had a meeting with Dean Rick Short recently about scaling up our Nursing program. There are, potentially, five healthcare providers in our region would like to work with UHCL. Dr. Blake reminded faculty that it is not the amount given during the Campaign, it is the participation that we are hoping to be proud of. Alumni are getting involved as well. The President's office is facilitating revision discussions on our Mission, Vision and Values. There are opportunities available to serve on this committee for anyone interested. Dr. Blake does not believe it is recklessly bold to have a permanent position selected for the Vice President of Admin and Finance by the end of summer. Currently, Dr. Glen Houston is refining the position he is currently serving interim and preparing it for a permanent Provost. It is desired to have a balanced budget and net revenue by the end of the Fiscal Year. New marketing strategies are being looked at and employed to show parents and students why they should choose UHCL. UHCL is also looking at creating and hiring a position for someone to manage governmental, corporate, and community engagement. Details will be coming out soon about this position, but it would be someone to serve as the 'point person' in these areas. UH-Main HR Director, Jennifer McMillan is temporarily assisting UHCL as we look for our new Director. Usha Mathew has been named interim VP of Admin and Finance. As far as internal operations, Dr. Blake stated that we are relying too much on paper and need to start transitioning to electronic files. She asks that everyone remain patient during all of these changes. If anyone has advice, please send it to Berenice Webster. Dr. Blake stated that she is currently participating in meetings with the Budget Committees. Looking around the room, she also notices that we do not have a good amount of participation from faculty, in general, as the majority of faculty are not present at this assembly. Dr. Blake informed faculty that University Life Committee, chaired by Dr. Carol Carman, is currently working on a policy management system that should streamline the process for policy creation. Our Legal counsel, Valerie Coleman, is present here on campus Tuesday and Fridays, if anyone needs to meet with her. Dr. Blake briefly touched on vacant space concerns. UHCL is dealing with a consultant at the moment that will be taking a survey of vacant spaces and usage on campus. Serving students is the number one priority when scheduling space and we need to make sure of this. The Pearland Building is opening soon so everyone be on the lookout for the announcement dates. We also have a good amount of International applicants and the number is growing. UHCL will be increasing our visitation at colleges and fairs, as well.

Dr. Brian Stephens introduced Dr. Glen Houston, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Dr. Houston gave an overview presentation of the budget reductions from his office and briefly touched on University-wide initiatives before introducing Usha Mathew, Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance to show the faculty a more in-depth look at the FY19 A&F Budget Reduction Summary and UHCL's Base Commitments for 2019 (which are subject to change). These documents will be emailed out after the Assembly and will be available upon request.

At this time, the March 29, 2017 and November 2, 2017 Faculty Assembly minutes were approved by present faculty.

Dr. Stephens opened the floor for Faculty Senate President nominations. The nominees were Drs. Heather Kanenberg and Tim Michael. Nominations will remain open for three business days (until next Wednesday). Please email facultysenate@uhcl.edu or facultysenatepresident@uhcl.edu.

Dr. Stephens gave a big, 'Thank you!' to the current Faculty Senate Executive Committee for all of their effort this year. Especially to Heather for all of her Promotion & Tenure and Non-Tenure Track policy work. This includes:

Mike McMullen, President Elect
Lisa Gossett, Past President
Denise McDonald, Senator-at-Large
Heather Kanenberg, Chair – Faculty Life Committee
Paul Withey, Chair – Budget & Facilities Committee
Elizabeth Beavers, Chair – Research & Teaching Committee
Amanda Johnston, Chair – Curriculum

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Robert Bartsch, Program Director of the Center for Faculty Development, informed faculty that CFD is currently hosting spring events and are sending out updated weekly announcements each week. If you would like to receive a Faculty Fellow grant this year, the deadline will be March 19th to apply. There is also a call for awards out from CFD right now. There are three awards we are requesting nominations for. Please encourage the new faculty to nominate themselves for one of the awards. If they do not feel comfortable, feel free to alert us as to who it is and we will try to encourage them to step forward. Please check your weekly announcement for more information. Promotion and Tenure workshops are being held on the day we return from Spring Break, March 19th – “Finding a Mentor” will be held 11-12:00P and “Being a Mentor” will be held 1-2:00P. There is also a Learning Innovators discussion being hosted in the Faculty Club in between the sessions where lunch is provided. Friday, April 6th 9:30-3:00P, will be Faculty Development Day. There will be breakfast and lunch provided in the SSCB Lecture Hall, as well as one-hour workshops to do with UHCL faculty development (teaching, research, university culture, etc.) held throughout the event. Please RSVP by email if you would like to attend. More information to come soon. Please email facultydevelopment@uhcl.edu if you have questions.

Dr. Tim Michael, Chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, requested that faculty send suggestions to 2017suggestions@uhcl.edu. This is a special inbox that has been created for this purpose. There are cuts being made for FY19 already and PBC is working on the next phase of information that they can provide everyone. Please be sure to also include any 'compromises' you are having to make related to the budget, workload, etc. in your emails.

Dr. Stephens closed the discussions, informing everyone that Dr. Blake is meeting with Faculty Senate and Usha Mathew regularly. He also asked that present faculty talk to faculty that did not attend today and ask them to be more involved. Dr. Mike McMullen, Faculty Senate President-Elect, stated that Dr. Blake has made it clear that she is supportive of Shared Governance. Dr. Lisa Gossett, Past President, also commented that faculty involvement has been requested and the doors are open.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37P.