

UHCL Faculty Assembly Meeting

March 29, 2017 Minutes

Dr. Lisa Gossett called the meeting to order.

Faculty Assembly October 12, 2016 meeting Minutes were approved.

Introduction of speakers:

Glen Houston, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Jean Carr, Interim Vice President of Admin and Finance

1. Jean and Glen presented the latest budget information for FY18. (see attached PowerPoint presentation and Budget Reduction Plan FY18-FY20 handout)
 - a. Our speakers recapped the shortfall, naming two major sources, state appropriation and tuition. The interim VPs covered the department BASE funds, balances, and reductions (current and future). Total base reduction, across departments, appears to be 7.3%.
 - b. Academic Affairs has completed their reduction plan. Administration and Finance will complete their plan by the April 15th deadline. Reductions in Admin & Finance will be made in the VP Office, Budget Office, FMC, Finance, HR, Police, and Environmental Health & Safety. The plan is to reduce in vacant positions and M&O.
 - c. Discussions continue in regards to growing enrollment for UHCL. One of the goals of the college is to diversify our international student population.
 - d. There are several bills currently in legislation that will affect tuition rates. One is for a 'tuition freeze'. There is also another that will eliminate the 'set-aside'. This is a collection of 15% of students' tuition that is set-aside to provide need-based scholarships to students. Discussion is currently taking place on how these bills, if passed, will affect UHCL.
 - e. Dates that our Interim VPs would like us to be aware of:
 - a. April 15th – Reduction Plans Due
 - b. May 29th – Legislative Session Ends
 - c. Aug 24th – BOR Approves Budget
 - d. September – Fall Enrollment
 - e. Summer 2018 – BASE Year (State Funding for FY20-21)
 - f. Drs. Houston and Carr fielded questions from the Faculty having to do with the budget, future site expansion, class-planning, and growing the international student population.

Dr. Lisa Gossett gave a big, 'Thank you!' to the current Faculty Senate Committee for all of their effort this year. This includes:

Brian Stephens, President Elect
Chris Ward, Past President
Sandra Browning, Senator-at-Large
Heather Kanenberg, Chair – Faculty Life Committee
Paul Withey, Chair – Budget Committee
Carol Carman, Chair – Research Committee
Denise McDonald – Chair, Curriculum & Teaching

Dr. Lisa Gossett stated that it is the Faculty Senate's wish for faculty to keep in mind that they are here to listen. If anyone has concerns that they feel should be addressed, Senate would like to know about them to help voice them to the proper people.

Dr. Rob Bartsch announced the upcoming, Spring semester Learning Innovators Meetings. They are scheduled for April 10th, 25th, and May 9th 11:30-1:00P. There is a different topic selected for each date that will be interesting to faculty members. Lunch will be provided.

At this time, Dr. Lisa Gossett opened the floor for nominations for Faculty Senate President. Three candidates were nominated:

Mike McMullen
Frank Matthews
Tim Michaels

Dr. Lisa Gossett announced that she would be sending out the updated Faculty Senate Constitution in the next several days.

She also gave faculty advance notice that she would soon begin to forward System Administrative Messages (SAMs). SAMs are policies that will impact us as a campus. The idea of dissemination is for faculty to be aware and provide feedback regarding these policies.

Dr. Gossett announced that there is a Title IX position to be developed soon to help with training. Please contact her if you are serving on this search committee.

The Presidential Search has produced four finalists. The Open Forums for the Candidates have been announced. Please attend and participate in these events, if you are able.

Angie Howard invited faculty to attend the Liberal Arts Lecture Series taking place tonight in the Forest Room 5:15-6:45p. (1) Continuity and Crisis in German Cinema 1928-1936 and (2) The Burden of Silence: Sabbatai Sevi and the Evolution of the Ottoman-Turkish Donmes

After announcements, the meeting was adjourned.