

**Faculty Senate
Minutes
March 7, 2012**

Attendees: Akladios, Magdy; Bradley, Brent; Carman, Carol; Collins, George; Gossett, Lisa; Grigsby, Bettye; Hammer, Tonya; Hentges, Beth; Larson, Stuart; Ley, Kathryn; Matthews, Frank; McCormack, Pat; Michael, Tim; Norwood, William; Packard, Ashley; Perez-Davila, Alfredo; Rashid, Bazlur; Robinson, Leroy; Shin, Haeyoung ; Short, Mary; Simieou, Felix; Subramanian, Shreerekha; Vesey, Winona; Walker, L. Jean; Willis, Jana.

Absent: Browning, Sandra; Chan, Leo; Mustafaev, Zach; Peres, Camille; Peters, Michelle; Rob, Mohammed; Rohde, Larry; Wang, Daniel; Ward, Chris.

Others: Bendeck, Yvette; Biggers, Darlene; Czajkiewicz, Zbigniew; Mugdh, Mrinal; Stockton, Carl, Wielhorski, Karen.

Announcement: Alumni Association Awards

Charity Ellis, Director of Alumni Relations, handed out a flyer announcing nominations to the Alumni Association Awards.

Approval of February 2012 Senate Minutes

Dr. Gossett noted that under Faculty Research the fourth sentence down states “The Scholarly Lecture Series is highlighted at the bottom and it is up to date”. It should say “. . . needs to be updated”. A motion was made to approve the minutes with the correction noted. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Provost’s Report

Dr. Stockton addressed concerns regarding the Academic Calendar - whether it should be 15 or 16 weeks. He found out through the Provost Council that, according to the THECB, if classes are scheduled for even one day after the 15th week, it is considered a week. He has requested this in writing. Dr. Perez-Davila asked if that includes finals week. Dr. Stockton indicated that it does. Dr. Matthews voiced concern that, even though we’re complying legally, we must be concerned with what is wise.

He reminded Faculty Senate that SACS will be on campus April 3-5 and thanked the faculty for their help in preparation of the visit. There will be 11 reviewers. They will meet with faculty on campus and will go to off-site locations, possibly Pearland and the Medical Center. He encouraged the faculty to be on campus as much as possible in case any of the reviewers need to speak with them.

Dr. Bendeck spoke to the Freshman Admissions Standards policy (see policy attached). Data was gathered from peer institutions as identified by President Staples and reviews of data of SAT scores and GPA’s from districts identified as primary feeders. There is a trade-off between standards and remedial or developmental education. We feel we have accomplished the goal of a freshman class that has a very high probability of succeeding. “College ready” benchmarks were analyzed. The result is the standards shown in the document, which should result in students who have more than a 65% chance at the end of their first year to have greater than a 3.12 gpa. It is felt that this meets our retention criteria. Dr. Matthews noticed that the 500 in math is not showing in the admissions standards. Dr. Bendeck indicated that it is included in the 1050 SAT score.

Faculty Senate Committees

Budget Committee - Dr. Michael

Dr. Michael met with Dr. Bendeck, Vice President Michelle Dotter and Provost Stockton about the Enrollment Management budget. He is almost through deciphering the data given to him and will forward to the Faculty Senate once completed.

Curriculum and Teaching Committee - Dr. Willis

Dr. Willis indicated that the committee, including Dr. Norwood, met with Dr. Bendeck and she presented the Admissions Standards that were just presented. The committee unanimously approved it.

Research Committee - Dr. Gossett

The committee had a meeting with Dr. Paul Myers and discussed the challenges campus-wide with the budget cuts. They also discussed each school's needs for the Research web page.

Dr. Michael noted that FRSF proposals extended until 3/18.

Faculty Life Committee – Dr. Matthews

The committee is trying to decide what policies to start working on for next year. Policy 3.1 is going to be presented later in the meeting.

Shared Governance Committees

Facilities and Support Services Committee - Dr. Larson

The Building & Use Policy has been sent back to legal after making some changes.

Planning & Budgeting Committee- Dr. Michael

Chief Willingham presented at the last meeting. The Budget Discussion web page is now updated. Also, the suggestion box is still open and responses to the questions are listed at the bottom of the page. Dr. Stockton was going to present on 3/28 but it is up in the air because we're not sure what priorities will be able to be funded. Dr. Stockton volunteered that he asked for PBC to be rescheduled because the Faculty Assembly is on that day and the last Deans Council meeting before the SACS visit is also on the day.

University Life Committee - Dr. Carman

ULC is finalizing the smoking policy poll. Deadline is 3/16. Laptops have been set up in All from 3-7:30 so people can vote. Over 1000 responses have been received.

Policy #3.1 Tenure

Dr. Matthews gave a brief introduction to the policy (see attached). The main point for reviewing the policy was to address extending the tenure clock for people who have had a disruption in their lives. Our wording is primarily taken from the UH's 2011 Promotion and Tenure Guidelines. It was asked what the definition of "primary caregiver" was. Dr. Matthews pointed out that it is in the policy. It is basically a family-friendly policy. A motion was made to vote. It was approved unanimously.

Freshman and Transfer Admissions standards

The policy comes to Faculty Senate from the Curriculum and Teaching committee who unanimously support it. Dr. Walker read the comments she received from BUS faculty: The sentence under the Assured Admission table leads one to believe that anyone can be given admission, which is obviously not the intent. It was discovered that Dr. Walker was reading from a previous version, and that sentence has already been removed. Under Admission under Individual Review the reference to 1st and 2nd quartile: in statistics, the 1st and 2nd quartile is the lowest. Dr. Bendeck clarified that this is nomenclature in admissions policies and means the 1st and 2nd quartile is the highest. Discussion ensued.

Dr. McCormack stated that starting with the 2008-2009 catalog transfer gpa's dropped the "+" and "-" grades are taken off, making it not C-, just C. He asked why this was done. Dr. Bendeck indicated this is to equalize UHCL with what all the other universities are doing. The issue of transferring grades is separate from calculating GPA.

Dr. Mary Short asked why we have + and - in the grading system. Dr. Bendeck said it was debated in the '90's. At that time Faculty Senate leadership thought we needed more differentiation. Students wanted the +/- because they want to get a +.

Dr. Matthews noted on Transfer Student Admission Criteria the asterisk should say "All courses taken must be from regionally accredited . . . ", not "All colleges attended"

A question about admission criteria for international students came up. Dr. Bendeck indicated that international transfer students have their own admissions criteria that have not been finalized yet.

A motion was made to vote on the policy and was seconded. The vote was unanimous except for one abstention.

Announcements/New Business

There was no new business.

Dr. Norwood announced that the Spring Faculty Assembly will be held on 3/28/12. He reminded the senate that this is the time nominations are made for President-Elect.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55.