

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 06, 2013
MINUTES (including approved resolutions)**

Members Present: Magdy Akladios, Sandra Browning, George Collins, Leo Chan, Kent Divoll, David Garrison, Lisa Gossett, Shanna Graves, Tonya Hammer, William Hoston, Samina Masood, Pat McCormack, Scott McIntyre, Ron Mills, William Norwood, Keith Parsons, Alfredo Perez-Davila, Rick Puzdrowski, Bazlur Rashid, Leroy Robinson, Haeyoung Shin, Mary Short, Felix Simieou, L. Jean Walker, Chris Ward, Jana Willis, Frank Matthews, Kathryn Ley Stuart Larson, Tim Michaels, Camille Peres.

Members Absent: Bettye Grigsby, Michelle Peters.

Others Present: Samuel Gladden, Glen Houston, Mrinal Mugdh Varma, Rick Short, Yvette Bendeck, Darlene Biggers, Ted Cummings, Czajkiewicz Zbigniew, Carl Stockton, Karen Wielhorski, Kathy Matthew.

Minutes Approval

The November 2012 minutes were approved as there were no additional revisions from Provost Stockton. The December 2012 minutes were approved as presented.

Provost's Report

Dr. Stockton reported on business conducted at the last Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Quarterly meeting. Raising the standards for low enrollment programs was again addressed. THECB Staff members recommended approval of raising the current standards for baccalaureate programs from 25 graduates to 40 graduates over 5 years; master's programs from 15 graduates to 25 graduates over 5 years; doctoral programs from 10 graduates to 15 graduates over 5 years. Some members of the Graduate Education Advisory Committee present at the meeting disagreed with raising the standards as they felt the proposed standards would close small programs at small colleges in rural areas. Consequently, the THECB members moved to table the recommendation for increasing the standards. The board members asked for more research and data on the progress of the programs on the 2-year extension. There was information that almost 50% of those programs met the current standards after 2 years. If the proposed new standards are approved, the 5-year period would start fall 2013. THECB would start reviewing programs in 2018. The academic deans have been asked to start reviewing the programs on the current standards as well as those that may be at risk under the new standards. Provost Stockton did not know when the issue will be revisited.

Provost Stockton said that the proposal for renovation of the University of North Texas Student Center was re-introduced to the THECB. The proposal was approved.

There was discussion on changing the 30 hour rule which would impact many transfer students. Students transfer from community colleges with an average on 78 hours and graduate from UHCL with an average of 154 hours. If a program is 120 hours and students reach 150 hours (30 hours over required hours), universities do not receive formula funding for those students. As a result, students are charged extra tuition to offset the loss. THECB is proposing changing the 30 hours to 15 hours above the 120 hours to complete the degree. If approved, this action will significantly affect UHCL as it is a transfer institution. Also, if approved, the new rule will have significant financial implications for students. One addition rule change proposed, was limiting community colleges 2-year degrees to 60 hours. Dr. Stockton will inform Faculty Senate of THECB decisions on the proposed rule changes.

Provost Stockton thanked Faculty Senate members for their contributions to a successful SACS reaffirmation. UHCL received reaffirmation to 2022 with no additional recommendations. UHCL is being regarded as a model institution as it is rare to receive SACS reaffirmation without findings. We will continue to work on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). A QEP status update will be provided to the senate at a later date. Provost Stockton

acknowledged Dr. Chloe Diepenbrock, Kevin Barlow, Pat Cuchens, Dr. Jean L. Walker and the Quality Leadership Team for their work in preparing for SACS.

Dr. Stockton stated that he became aware of concerns regarding the scheduling grid when a Signal Newspaper reporter asked him about discontinuing the 3-hour block for morning sessions. Dr. Stockton explained that the scheduling grid came out of the Facilities sub-committee of the Four-Year Initiative Steering Committee. The charge to the sub-committee was to research the best practices on how other universities accommodate freshman students. The committee's findings show that the model common across the state and country was the traditional Monday/Wednesday/Friday 50-minute classes and Tuesday/Thursday 75-minute classes. The model was presented to the Four Year Initiative Steering Committee. The Steering Committee endorsed the model. Dr. Bendeck presented the model to the four academic schools and asked for feedback on how the schedule grid will affect 3-hour freshman/sophomore classes particularly 3-hour lab or 4-hour math classes. She received responses from three schools. Dr. Stockton reiterated that UHCL will continue to have 3-hour class blocks in the morning for upper level and graduate programs. UHCL will continue to serve our upper level and graduate students. The grid was developed to accommodate the expected 300 freshmen/sophomore classes. We are not making any changes to the upper level programs. There are currently 22 3-hour classes during the daytime. UHCL's space utilization scores are low per THECB standards. By adding Monday to Friday classes for freshman and sophomore only, space utilization scores will improve. Additionally, these additions will help UHCL make a case for Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs) for new buildings. Increasing daytime classroom utilization will help gain more support for TRBs and additional space.

Dr. Garrison pointed out that a significant change such as the new schedule grid should have gone through the shared governance process. Provost Stockton invited faculty to dialogue with him about their concerns. The plan is to have the new grid in the system by fall 2013 so that problems could be resolved prior to the first freshman class.

Dr. Stockton clarified that time blocks for the first 300 freshman/sophomore students will be small as those classes will need to be filled. As enrollment increases, we will evaluate time blocks and respond to the academic schools' needs accordingly.

Dr. Stockton stated he encourages open communication and asked that he be informed of concerns and issues as they arise. He is willing to attend faculty senate/FSEC and school meetings to address academic affairs related concerns. He meets with the President and Vice President, Faculty Senate at least once monthly. Dr. Stockton asked FS representatives to share the information he provided to their colleagues in the various schools. He stated that he was aware of the Faculty Senate resolution regarding the scheduling grid. Dr. Stockton remains available to discuss issues/concerns and acknowledge ideas.

Dr. Ley asked the Provost to identify low enrollment programs. Provost Stockton will respond to emails requesting that information. Dr. Ley asked whether the SACS response would be available to the Faculty Senate. Provost Stockton agreed to share the information with the senate.

Dr. Michael asked for details on mid-term grade reporting. Dr. Stockton responded that mid-term grade reporting has not been discussed at the Steering Committee. Other important issues such as the early alert program and retention for freshman/sophomore student still need to be discussed. All those issues will be addressed as we move forward towards the Four Year Initiative.

Dr. Matthews thanked Enrollment Management for reporting student drops to faculty.

Dr. Garrison added that it would be even better if faculty was notified before the drop is final.

Resolution on course Scheduling Grid changes

Dr. Ley stated that the resolution relates to the representative role of the Faculty Senate in the shared governance process. Dr. Ward agreed and explained that the resolution was a statement about the decision to change scheduling choices without the supporting evidence and consideration by the Faculty Senate Curriculum and Teaching Committee. C&T should have an opportunity to participate in decision making and make recommendations relating to curriculum. Following discussion, the resolution was amended and approved (see attached).

Resolution on Campus Firearms

Dr. Parson presented the resolution to the Senate. Following discussion, the senate agreed to submit the amended resolution to all faculty members for feedback. There was a suggestion to use data to support the scenario presented in the resolution in order to strengthen the statement. There were suggestions to make the statement concise and to remove the scenario (all sentences except the 1st and last sentence). There was a suggestion to replace "any" with "the proposed" in the last sentence. A motion was made and seconded to amend and approve the resolution (see attached). The motion passed.

Senate Committee Reports

Budget: Dr. Ward reported that the committee recommended that funds be made available to the academic deans to address faculty salary compression, gender inequality and specifically associate professor salaries which are disproportionately lower than 10 years ago. The committee looked at data from 10 years ago and cost of living adjustments and compared it to current data. Based on that data, faculty is being paid an average of \$3400 less than ten years ago. Dr. Gossett asked if a source for the funds was identified. Dr. Ward said it is the administrators' job to identify the funds. The deans should have latitude to distribute the funds to faculty who need adjustments. Dr. Michaels commented that the issue be submitted to Planning and Budget Committee for consideration. Following discussion there was a motion to amend the resolution to include merit pay. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Curriculum & Teaching: There was no report.

Research: Dr. Gossett announced the Faculty Senate/Neumann Library Fireside Chat will be on February 11 at 11:30 a.m. She invited all faculty members to attend.

Faculty Life: Dr. Matthews stated that the committee will be working on Faculty Grievance Policy and the Faculty Suspension and Dismissal Policy (handouts distributed). Dr. Matthews circulated the Faculty Life Questionnaire and asked for feedback.

Shared Governance Committee Reports

PBC: Dr. Michaels reported that discussion of courses is ongoing. A town hall meeting has been arranged. The University priorities will be presented in April

ULC: Dr. Perez-Davila stated that ULC had not met for the semester.

FSSC: Dr. Larson reported that FSSC has not met.

QEP Report

Dr. L. Jean Walker reported that the second QEP Workshop is scheduled for Friday, February 15. Contact Kevin Barlow about registering for the workshop, seeing the first workshop video and copies of booklets. Quality Leadership Team (QLT) discussed how to get administrators more actively involved in the workshop in a way that can be documented for SACS. QLT members feel that it is important for deans to know what is required of faculty to teach critical thinking courses. This information will be critical to faculty evaluation. QLT plans to invite President Staples and Provost Stockton to the workshop.

Announcements

The spring faculty assembly will be held March 20. The topic will be the Four Year Initiative (FYI). A faculty panel and FYI committee chairs will be invited to participate. Dr. Michaels pointed out that there is a PBC meeting on that same day.

New Business

Dr. Divoll shared that there has been some anomalies in the online course evaluation. Some courses are receiving information that does not apply to the course.

Dr. Michaels suggested that senate representatives discuss mid-term grade reporting issues at the school level. C&T Committee may need to address mid-term grade reporting as well.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Firearms Resolution

The Faculty Senate of the University of Houston-Clear Lake states its position that concealed firearms should continue to be prohibited on college and university campuses. We endorse the retention of the current laws prohibiting most firearms on college and university campuses, and strongly oppose any proposed change that would expand the presence of firearms on campus.

Approved 2/6/13
Faculty Senate Meeting

Faculty Review of Scheduling Decisions Resolutions

Be it resolved that scheduling decisions

- Determine the culture of the university
- Affect access issues for students
- Restrict pedagogical choices for faculty, and
- May negatively affect enrollment and retention

Therefore, the UHCL Faculty Senate objects to the fact that a decision to substantially alter scheduling choices for undergraduate classes is being made without supporting evidence and without appropriate consideration by the Faculty Senate's Curriculum and Teaching Committee, whose charge is to preserve the University's commitment to academic excellence.

We respectfully request that the Senate's Curriculum and Teaching Committee be allowed to study the question of scheduling and make a recommendation to the Shared Governance system through the Faculty Senate and Academic Council.

Approved 2/6/13
Faculty Senate Meeting