

UHD Faculty Senate
Minutes recorded by: Ed Cueva
Zoom Meeting September 1, 2020 2:32 – 4:04 PM Online through Zoom

Senate: Ronald Beebe, Edmund Cueva, Michael Duncan, Kasi Bundoc, , Franklin Allaire, Nina Barbieri, Alexander Bielakowski, Prakash Deo, Krista Gehring, Rachael Hudspeth, Tahereh Jafari, Timothy Klein, Cynthia Lloyd, Jean Nganou, Anand Pore, Joseph Sample, Lucas Logan, Nell Sullivan, Pat Williams, Julie Wilson, Angelica Roncacio, Godwin Agboka, Dexter Cahoy

Absent: Yuchou Chang, Isaac Elking, Jeffrey Martz, Nathan Neale

Guests: Antonio Tillis, Interim President; Eric Link, Provost/VPAA; Michelle Moosally, AVP Programming and Curriculum; Pat Ensor, Library Director; Darlene Hodge, FS Admin; Sheryl Sellers, Student/Dateline Correspondent; Bobbi Shaw, Staff Council President; Irene Chen, Professor; Michael Connell, Professor; Lucy Bowen, Executive Director, Academic and Student Affairs; Kevin Buckler, Associate Professor; Melissa Hovsepian, Program Director, BSIS; Jerry Johnson, AVP, Faculty, Research and Sponsored Programs; Laura Livesey, Lecturer; Timoteo “Alan” Modrow, SGA President; Creshema Murray, Special Assistant to the President; Ashleigh Petts, Assistant Professor; Akif Uzman, Dean, College of Science and Technology; Cynthia Vargas, Director, Emergency Management; Shay Tatum, SGA; Johanna Schmertz, professor; Michael Cavanaugh, Associate Professor; Mahmud Hasan, Assistant Professor, Rachna Sadana, Chair Natural Sciences; Ivonne Montalbano, VP ESO; Charlie Finch, Assistant Dean, University College; Hossein Shahrokhi, VP Instructional Technology; Sandra Dahlberg, Omsbud

Call to order: The Senate was called to order at 2:32 pm by Senate President Ronald Beebe.

Minutes

July 1st Zoom minutes were passed unanimously.

Reports

Interim President Tillis joined the Senate to discuss the different roles of the faculty have taken on during the pandemic. He emphasized the power of the professoriate, thanked the faculty for their quick pivot during the summer, and underscored flexibility, compassion, and understanding as the three words that govern UHD’s administrative actions during this crisis. He noted that UHD’s number one priority is students, defined an “open campus” as a campus that has functioning operations on campus, and that the safety of students, faculty, staff, and students is tantamount in the decision making process regarding the different stages of reopening the campus. Dr. Tillis concluded by stating that it is an honor for him to serve as UHD’s interim president.

Senate President Ronald Beebe reminded everyone that the Faculty Awards ceremony will be held on September 22nd. He also noted that by the end of September he will email each and every senator and hopefully meet with them.

Provost Link reported on some UHD success stories: the approval of two new MA degrees (AI and Professional Accountancy; other MA degrees are also in progress); as of 8/31/20, 83% of students had completed their mandatory student training (UHD is leading the system in this area); in the spring, around 300 to 350 computers, webcams, and sticks were distributed to students; this fall thus far, 171 students have received computers, 23 have received webcams and wifi sticks, 39 have received internet sticks; summer enrollment was up (headcount +20.5, SCHs +27.7); this

fall, as 9/1/20, 15,276 students are enrolled, an all-time high (cp. 2019 record of 15,164), which is an increase of 4% in SCHs and just under 1% in headcount. The healthy enrollment data suggest that the UHD budget may meet well the challenges of the expected 5% enrollment drop, which did not materialize, and 5% biennium budget cut caused by the pandemic, which would have resulted in a seven million dollar swing. Additionally, if the data hold, the PBDC budget may be revisited to perhaps pull out some of the approved items in the budget. The CARES Act Funding (Parts 1 and 2) continues to be distributed. Part 1 (3.2 of the original 4.7 million dollars) had to be distributed directly as student aid, no strings attached dollars. The 4.7 million of Part 2 is all encumbered. UHD will also be receiving new dollars from the GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) initiative that is meant for scholarships for students affected by the pandemic and must be used this fall. Lastly, strategic planning is on the cusp of getting reenergized.

Provost Link also requested Senate agreement on an extension of the late-registration deadline to September 2nd due to the school closure caused by Hurricane Laura. This would potentially help rebook and reschedule 350 student registration appointments. VP Jung had informed the Provost that 250 students could possibly enroll. The Senate supported the extension with the proviso that course instructors would be asked for permission before late-registered students are added to their classes. It was also stipulated that no probationary or FTICs should be enrolled late.

Q – Would the payment deadline be extended if the late-registration deadline is pushed back?
Provost – I don't know. This will be discussed.

The Director of Emergency Management, Ms. Cynthia Vargas, presented on the reopening of campus, the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the university's mitigation strategies, what to do in case of COVID-19 exposure, entry points to the university for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, UHD's Contact Tracing Program, and FAQs related to the number of UHD COVID-19 cases, reporting, and contacts (cf. the attached PowerPoint file for full details).

Q – Where are clear faced shields and other PPE to be picked up?

A – College office if you are scheduled to teach in any form on campus this term. If not, speak to your department office.

Q – What are the precautions be taken at the university entry points? Are pens being reused?

A – Those are not reusable pens.

Q – What is the effectiveness of face shields for the interlocutor? Should we have lip reading masks?

A – Please send research and recommendations her way.

Dr. Beebe entertained nominations for the at-large members on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, which he hoped would have some diversity. Dr. Duncan noted that it would be a good thing to have representation from all four colleges. Dr. Rachael Hudspeth (CST), Dr. Nina Barbieri (CPS), and Dr. Anand Pore (MDCOB) self-nominated. Dr. Sullivan moved to approve the nominations as a ballot and Dr. Duncan seconded. The ballot was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beebe entertained a motion to forward to the Faculty Assembly the revisions made to the Faculty Senate Constitution. Dr. Bielakowski moved to forward the revisions and Dr. Sullivan seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beebe opened a discussion about the reopening of campus. He stated that there is a fine line being walked that addresses state and county concerns while at the same keeping at the forefront the health and safety of people on campus. There is a focus on keeping the number of people on

campus down to a minimum while keeping offices open to serve students on campus.

Dr. Beebe also reminded the Senate about the series of anti-racism statements passed by the Senate this summer and acknowledged the ongoing problems with Blackboard Ally. He encouraged senators to discuss these issues with their constituents so that these two matters can be revisited at the next meeting.

Comments:

- There is concern regarding the threshold for keeping offices open.
- Staff are being put at greater risk than faculty.
- Are restrooms being tracked in the Contact Tracing Program?
- Contact Dr. Beebe if there are any questions.
- Concerned staff should also contact Staff Council.
- Certain documents (e.g., financial records) are not or cannot be transmitted electronically.

Student Government Association President, Mr. Timoteo “Alan” Modrow, shared the student perspective on access to campus. He noted that student-facing offices need to be open since he reports that some offices (financial aid, registrar) are not answering their phones or emails. Multiple students have experienced these problems. There is a noticeable lack of timely communication from these offices. He concluded with a request for greater understanding on the part of the faculty when it comes to student concerns, questions, and complaints.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.