UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Nathan Neale
Regular Scheduled Senate Meeting October 5, 2021
2:30 – 4:00 PM
Online via Zoom

Senators Attending: Amy Baird, Edmund Cueva, Ronald Beebe, Krista Gehring, Nathan Neale, Godwin Agboka, Ayden Adler, Stephanie Babb, Alexander Bielakowski, Franklin Allaire, Amy Baird, Nina Barbieri, Maria Bhattacharjee, Kasi Bundoc, Austin DeJan, Prakash Deo, Lucas Fedell, Paul Fulbright, Aaron Gillette, Heather Goltz, Rachael Hudspeth, Michael Lemke, Cynthia Lloyd, Lucas Logan, Jean Nganou, Angelica Roncacio, M. Nell Sullivan, Candace TenBrink, Adriana Visbal, Julie Wilson

Senators Absent: Scott Davis, Don Holmes, Anand Pore

Guests: Akif Uzman, Interim Provost, Michelle Moosally, AVP Programming and Curriculum, Jerry Johnson, AVP, Sandra Dahlberg, Faculty Ombuds, Hossein Shahrokhi, Associate Vice President, Information Technology, Patricia Ensor, Executive Director, W.I.D., Lea Campbell, Executive Director, Assessment and Accreditation, Darlene Hodge, FS Admin, John Lane, Director of Teaching and Learning, Irene Chen, Professor, Said Fattouh, Director of User Support Services, Tahereh Jafari, Lecturer, Christina Hughes, Sonya Bennett-Brandt, Assistant Director of Institutional Relations at OpenStax

Call to order: The Senate was called to order at 2:32 PM by Senate President Edmund Cueva after a quorum was assembled.

A motion to approve the September 7, 2021 minutes was made and seconded.
The minutes were approved.

Reports

Mr. Hossein Shahrokhi shared the Information Technology Strategic Plan as an ongoing commitment to align goals and strategy with UHD. This involves specific key drivers. While they are designed to be updated as styles, funding, and initiatives change but they predominantly remain constant. He shared the mission statement and emphasized that this is designed to focus on students, faculty and staff. They seek to provide a robust, secure infrastructure. They want to make information and software outside of the office and to assist stakeholders with building remote classrooms. We are here to assist with student recruitment, retention and placement. He said that his team wants to provide consistent IT offerings.
Q-Is this strategy for a specific timeframe?
A-A strategic plan is a living document. We review it each year with a plan to keep them for five years.

Q-When thinking about UHD, one of the best parts of our university is how well IT supports us and students. Are there any thoughts on how we integrate natural disasters and other issues that may disrupt course delivery?

A- We are here to support faculty, staff and students. We consider how their issues are related to technology concerns that may arise. We want to focus on robust, secure infrastructure for these purposes.

He also explained that DUO assists with secure data and compliance. They also focus on enterprise management and recently moved to a robust video management system to better address faculty needs.

Sonya Bennett-Brandt from OpenStax shared a presentation on her organization and how they help UHD with OER resources. They have many open textbooks, provide online homework solutions and conduct research on OER. They focus on advocacy and partner with institutions like UHD to lower costs for students. They have over 36,000 adoptions, have saved over 14 million students 1.2BB dollars. She shared many benefits and invited faculty to an online webinar. She asked anyone with questions to reach out directly to her.

New Business

Drs. Campbell and Hughes shared a presentation that focused on the future of ACE++ at UHD. They explained that they sent a survey and out of the 62 faculty that responded, 77% wanted to keep or expand the program.

Q -Have you considered how to better promote bridging the Academy and community to promote critical thinking?

A-Community engagement primarily focuses on service learning right now. Community service is a narrow area. For example, those in business may not be included as many of the projects they would be interested in would help for-profit firms.

C-I worry about expanding beyond the current timeline. It seems to move beyond critical thinning and is no longer about success in lower-level courses but is focused on community service. Also, faculty must align their courses to fit instead of ACE helping the courses. We would like to focus more on critical thinking and not assess service learning.

A-We would like to include ACE in upper-level courses too.

C-We have some feedback from a department. They are concerned that the naming is a "universal thumbs down". There are 21 graphs about student service but not much about critical thinking.

Q-What does expand mean? UHD promoted this when it began but now it seems to be disappearing. Can you provide a clear path of what ACE involves?

A-If this continues, we should expand what it means. Expand is not voluntary for lower-level, but upper-level.

C-I see that this creates demanding and additional work for faculty as we need to monitor this. We should have 1.5X credit for these courses to help address the work load. This may work better in teams. Some may want to focus on research, others on teaching. Wwe need to carefully prioritize our goals and discuss this issue before making a decision. We should focus on real problems form the community to see how our students can contribute. UHD should be known as an institution that helps our community and this should be separate from ACE.

Q-If we expand, what resources are needed?

A-We would need more faculty resources.

Q-How can we address the five questions and to see if senate should support this? Should we ask our constituents?

A-It is the senate's decision to make.

Q-What is the latest that you need information from senate?

A-The end of October.

Q-If we vote now, do we need to vote to keep, expand or cancel?

Dr. Cueva stated that he was uncomfortable with the senate voting without clear data. He asked if there were more data available to better make a decision.

A-We have this and can send it out soon.

Q-Can we have this in time to review prior to our next senate meeting on the 19th?

A-Yes. We can send this to Dr. Cueva so that the report is ready for the 19th.

Old Business

A senator provided an update on the 3/3 teaching load. There is a consensus that the best opportunity is to focus on the original proposal from last semester. This would involve a course release based on evaluation score. The committee recognizes that there is a question if this is a reward for past or encouragement for future contributions. Some like the idea of faculty having the option to move a portion of one's teaching load to the summer.

C-Please be cautious about suggesting moving beyond a 9-month calendar. Some would like to see us become year-round employees. Many of us need the summers to write.

Q-Can we concentration on discussing various options?

C-Please do not allow us to become 12 month employees. Please obtain input before making suggestions to administration.

Q-Are some colleges using other models?

A-The first proposal sounds best to the committee but we recognize that there are other options. We are interested in looking at our peers.

Q-How does the COB accomplish this?

Dr. Johnson explained that the COB self-funds the release time. He suggested that the senate continue to explore this topic and invite others to meetings when discussing it as they may help.

C-We need to find out if the senate would like to proceed before approaching the provost.

Q-Is there a ratio related to our Carnegie Classification? What can we do to convince administration that many other public regional institutions have a 3/3 load? Do we have data on other peer schools?

A-We do not have much data but know that some are in the same category as us but have a 3/3.

A motion to enter Executive Session was made and seconded. The senate voted to move into executive session at 3:48PM. Only elected members of the senate attended the session and it was not recorded. This discussion was not to be shared by any in attendance to those outside of the meeting. The executive session ended at 4:12 PM.

The senate returned to the meeting and adjourned at 4:13 PM.

Key:
Answer
Comment
Question