

## UHD Faculty Senate

Minutes recorded by: Nathan Neale  
Regular Scheduled Senate Meeting February 1, 2022  
2:30 – 4:00 PM  
Online via Zoom

Members of Senate in Attendance: Edmund Cueva, Krista Gehring, Ronald Beebe, Nathan Neale, Ayden Adler, Godwin Agboka, Stephanie Babb, Nina Barbieri, Maria Bhattacharjee, Alexander Bielakowski, Franklin Allaire, Amy Baird, Scott Davis, Austin DeJan, Prakash Deo, Lucas Fedell, Paul Fulbright, Don Holmes, Heather Goltz, Cynthia Lloyd, Michael Lemke, Lucas Logan, Jean Nganou, Angelica Roncancio, Danya Serrano, M. Nell Sullivan, Candace TenBrink, Adriana Visbal, Julie Wilson

Senators Absent: Kasi Bundoc

**Guests:** Akif Uzman, Interim Provost, Jerry Johnson, AVP, Patricia Ensor, Executive Director, W.I.D., Rachna Sadana, Associate Professor, Travis Crone, Associate Professor, Johanna Schmertz, Professor, Jane Creighton, Professor, Christine Stempinski, Caroline Smith, Staff Council President, Hossein Shahrokhi, UHD Chief Information Officer, Ivonne Montalbano, Erica Morales, Darlene Hodge, FS Admin

**Call to order:** The Senate was called to order at 2:32 PM by Senate President Elect Krista Gehring after a quorum was assembled.

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

### **Reports**

Interim Provost. Uzman reminded the senate that UHD was returning to normal operations on Monday, February 7. He stated that there was no indication that UHD should deviate from the system or the Covid Work Group and that the Harris County data suggests that COVID-19 rates could be better.

He also reminded the senate about the upcoming roster check.

He said that the fall 2022 schedule was due at the end of the month and that his office was in discussion with deans and chairs.

Q-What is the timeline to meet with chairs?

A-We will begin tomorrow.

Q-Any thoughts about what happens after the break?

A-The information comes from system. It looks like we are in a good place for spring but summer is unknown.

Dr. Cueva said that some students seem to be concerned that there may be a repeat from last fall. Some faculty keep the schedule as before the break.

Interim Provost Uzman said that he “hates the idea of policing” and we must return to the scheduled modality. There are probably twelve complaints and they many monitor. They are

concerned and aware of the situation. UHD asked students to communicate with faculty. We need to live up to providing a valuable experience for our students.

Q-We started with the soft start in the fall. Then, we had communication to extend. This seemed to be based on data. Then, we went back to the classroom. Do you have a sense if those that are making decisions are using data?

A-We have compared fall and spring. There is probably one week less this spring and it appears Omicron is less dangerous than the previous variant. This is also about balancing needs. There are also four important components: 1) Health, 2) educational delivery, 3) Governor's office, 4) what others in the community are doing, including schools and daycares. This is a difficult decision. The system has an impact and we are worried about the higher density at UHD.

C-Those that were teaching labs and project courses were told just before classes began that we would be going online. We were not ready for this again. This makes some "burnt out". We have to reimagine how to teach labs online

Interim Provost Uzman said that they are acutely and chronically aware of this.

Dr. Cueva asked about ballpark figures for the fall 2022 schedule regarding face-to-face and virtual courses.

Interim Provost Uzman said that they are working with deans and chairs. They want to use the modality that makes sense. When compared to pre-COVID vs fall 2022, there will likely be about 5% more online.

Dr. Cueva asked how many faculty have the KN95 masks.

Dr. Uzman asked faculty to work with their departments and Lucy Bowen.

C-The shelf life of these masks depends on how well we take care of them

C-Some are in department offices

C-Some are delivered to our offices.

C-Never take them off in the classroom.

## **Old Business**

Dr. TenBrink provided an update on parking. They met with staff council and are analyzing the shuttle drop off and accessibility for disabled stakeholders. They are looking at the price of parking and the large number of equipment taking parking spaces in the MDCOB.

Dr. Cueva said asked for volunteers to review the faculty handbook. This is being led by Dr. Gehring. They plan an early March vote to include language for the handbook.

Dr. Gehring asked if policy updates were required too.

C-We should remove the mention of policy in some places. Many universities use the handbook as policy.

Dr. Gehring said that we need to be clear about who has responsibility here and that it should be the faculty mentioned in the constitution.

Dr. Cueva asked the senate to review the handbook and send comments to Dr. Gehring. He also said that Dr. Dahlberg would assist. He will ask Interim Provost Uzman to create a charge for the committee.

Erica Morales and Ivonne Montalbano shared a presentation about VMOE.

Q-When will we receive a copy of this presentation?

Dr. Cueva said he would send them when he receives them

## **New Business**

Dr. Cueva reported that FSEC discussed the annual faculty awards for April and planned in-person with a live feed.

Dr. Cueva explained Dr. Hudspeth accepted a staff position and is no longer a member of faculty senate. The senate needs a new member of FSEC to replace Dr. Hudspeth. He sent out an email to solicit interest. Two lecturers responded: Lucas Fedell and Don Holmes.

Q-Did you only ask for lecturers?

A-No, the request was sent to the entire senate. Dr. Hudspeth was a lecturer but it was open to all. We only received interest from two senators; both are lecturers

Don Holmes and Lucas Fedell addressed the senate. The senate voted to replace Dr. Hudspeth with Lucas Fedell.

C-We should consider the importance of FSEC representation from each college.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The senate voted to adjourn at 3:50 PM.

Key:

Answer

Comment

Question