

**DRAFT**  
**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**Meeting: March 2, 2010**

PRESENT: M. Moosally, B. Belbot, T. Davis, C. Bedard, R. Beebe, R. Chiquillo, J. Creighton, D. de la Pena, H. Eliassen, T. Emeka, J. Flosi, B. Gilbert, A. Gomez-Rivas, O. Gupta, S. Henney, A. Hewitt, G. Jackson, K. Jegdic, J. Johnson, P. Lyons, C. Nguyen, J. Paskelian, J. Pavletich, D. Pence, R. Pepper, N. Rangel, T. Redl, D. Ryden, J. Schmertz, P. Simeonov, S. Singletary, N. Sullivan, F. Williams, T. Workman, Z. Zhou

ABSENT: J. Caro

GUESTS: Provost M. Woods, P. Williams, D. Bradley, P. Ensor

President Michelle Moosally called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes from the February 2, 2010 were approved with 1 abstention.

President Moosally said that UHD President Flores was present at the February 16, 2010 Senate meeting to discuss the implementation of the 4/3 teaching load. President Flores sent an email to all faculty on February 17 as a follow-up to his meeting with the Senate. She said that President Flores had the vision to honor the new policy, and she hopes that faculty see this new teaching load as a way to focus and build UHD—and not as a reduction in workload. As an institution, we need to continue to send a signal that we are interested in participating in budget planning and other types of planning. She asked that there be a round of applause for President Flores for his vision for the new policy and for the inclusion of faculty.

President Moosally announced that the Faculty Awards Ceremony will be held on April 6; she encouraged everyone to attend. She said that UHD faculty and staff will be recognized for long-term service. She pointed out that the greater the turnout, the easier it is to argue for these kinds of recognitions.

The UPC met and acknowledges that there is a major problem with transcript evaluation; resolving this problem should take top priority. As a result of the lack of timely transcript evaluation, there are students enrolled at UHD who do not meet the 2.0 gpa requirement for graduation. The UPC agreed that new faculty hired may be allocated elsewhere. There is a 4% raise in the 2010-2011 budget. There is also a plan to develop 4 instructional technologists to help develop online curriculum and courses. There is ongoing discussion about the number of courses and/or programs that might be offered online; there are also discussions of whether to continue paying online stipends of \$1000.

SACS will be coming up in 2010. Director of Assessment Lea Campbell has been active in getting faculty access to assessment development opportunities.

There is one more candidate for the provost position; he will be on campus on Thursday. Please keep in mind that your feedback on the candidates will be due soon.

Chancellor Khator will be on campus on March 4 and will be speaking at 8:30 in a forum open to all university members. She will then meet with a smaller group of faculty; please let President Moosally know if you are interested in being included in the smaller meeting.

The Staff Council has indicated to President Moosally that they are interested in exploring childcare and would like volunteers from faculty and staff to work on this. Some information has been collected from UH-Main. Staff Council has also challenged faculty to participate in the Chili Cook-off. President Moosally asked if any faculty are interested in participating.

President Moosally announced that the Houston Model UN event will be held at UHD on April 6, 7, 8. Dr. Merilee Cunningham is the contact for those wanting to participate.

A colleague in Urban Education passed away. There will be a memorial service from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4 in C100.

Vice-President B. Belbot announced that she has sent out an email regarding elections of officers; with the constitution changes, we will be electing a president, president-elect, and secretary. Please send nominations to VP Belbot. Please check with those people that you are nominating to assure that they are willing to serve. President Moosally pointed out that it is an interesting time to serve as an officer; VP Belbot pointed out that officers get 1 course release per semester.

Library Director Pat Ensor announced that they are working on the faculty publications exhibit in the reading room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. There will be faculty panels on Tuesday and Wednesday of Investiture Week in Room 420. President Moosally announced that we also have a fairly good response from faculty in regard to their attendance at the Investiture Ceremony.

### OLD BUSINESS

President Moosally asked Louis Evans and Senator S. Henney to report on the status of the facilities and programs/courses at 249. Senator Henney said it is moving forward—the major issue is the lease status; currently, the lease has not been signed, but the lease has come to the administrators who have informed Senator Henney that there are no “deal-breakers.” Senator Henney said there is a plan for the space; she has the plan and will be glad to share it with faculty. There are five smaller rooms and 7 larger rooms—a total of 12 rooms; but if we only have 12 to 13 spaces, this brings up the issue of utilizing that space in the most effective manner. Senator Henney suggests that we should consider “smart” scheduling, perhaps smart utilization of hybrid classes. Also, along those lines, the ideal is that there will be a core of tenure/tenure-track faculty who will also have adjuncts teaching around them. Senator Henney said that Louis Evans was kind enough to provide the list of programs. The general list of programs is: BA/BAAS in CJ, BAIS w/EC-6 Cert, BBA in General Business, BAIS w//4-8 Cert, BAAS in Safety Mgt., BA in Math w/secondary cert, BS in Bio and Physical Science w/secondary cert, BA in Humanities, BA/BS in Social Sciences, and BBA in Management and Accounting. She pointed out that all of these programs will require “support” classes. VP Belbot asked how these programs were approved. She was told that apparently, there is a group of system provosts or vice-chancellors in our case—that group went through the programs and divided them up. President Moosally said that there is a mandate that if we do not use the program in a period of 3

years, then we lose the program. Senator J. Johnson pointed out that, with only 12 or 13 rooms, it seems like too few classrooms with too many programs. Louis Evans said rooms would be added as programs grow. Senator Johnson said there are concerns that there just will not be enough “time” to provide all the classes that would be needed to complete a program. Senator Henney said that at the meeting that morning they were told to think about these issues. Senator P. Lyons said the bottom line is that we are going to have to have more faculty. President Moosally said that new faculty are being hired but there are questions about whether they will be dedicated to 249; she is concerned that there will be more online courses in order to provide that students can finish their programs. This means that decisions may not be “curriculum” driven—this is problematic. Senator D. Ryden pointed out that this would affect the faculty left on the UHD downtown campus, because faculty dedicated to 249 will not be able to participate in some of the service activities expected of full-time faculty. Senator T. Redl asked about a computing lab and library at the facility at 249. Senator Henney said there will be a very small library; she said the facility is very nice and there is plenty of parking, but whether it is successful all depends on us (UHD), e.g., what kind of support will we give when computers go down. Senator R. Pepper asked if there are offices for faculty out there. Senator Henney said there are 6 faculty offices; there will be lockers for secured storage and there is readily available food/water. Senator N. Sullivan said she is not clear on whether faculty hired are actually dedicated to 249. President Moosally said that all that has not been worked out yet—we will continue to raise the issue. Senator Lyons said that he remembered that President Flores made a statement that a number of the faculty that we are hiring (for 4/3) will be dedicated to 249. Senator Lyons said that he did not know if that was clearly what President Flores intended. Senator Lyons asked if we would have access to other rooms; Louis Evans said it is possible—UH has a half a floor and they would be willing “for a cost” to allow us access to other rooms. President Moosally asked how faculty are being identified to teach at 249. Senator Henney said that Dean Ahern had sent out an email asking for faculty who were interested. Senator Lyons said it was handled fairly democratically—he volunteered; he had feeling that if there were no volunteers, there would be some arm-twisting. Senator Johnson said that in his department they had a discussion about the effect on scholarship. Senator Henney reminded everyone that classes will be mostly at nighttime and on the weekend. Senator F. Williams said that his understanding is that the new contracts will have something to the effect of teaching out there. President Moosally said that we saw a commitment letter that Provost Woods had developed last year, but that we had not seen any follow-up. She said that she thinks it is important to know if new faculty have different expectations to meet; this could affect the promotion and tenure process/criteria. Senator Lyons said it would help to hear more; President Moosally said that it would help to have more direct communication. She suggested that maybe the advisory group could do this. Senator Flosi asked if there is a list of courses; Senator Henney said that there is not a list of courses yet. Senator Flosi said that, in his area, the program that will be offered out there and that it has 44 hours of upper level electives from which the student can draw. Louis Evans said they have discussed the lab. Senator Flosi asked what instrumentation would be provided in the lab. L. Evans said he would be willing to provide a tour for faculty senate. President Moosally pointed out that \$1 million has been dedicated to the build-out; therefore, there is a lot of money that will be invested and faculty here ARE interested in what is going on out there. President Moosally asked if we have a schedule; L. Evans said the summer schedule is on Banner but the fall schedule is not up yet. L. Evans will send the schedule to President Moosally. Senator Henney said that faculty have to be involved/invested to make this work. She

said that not everybody will want to teach out there, but she said that, if you are interested, talk to your department chair. Senator Flosi asked about safety; L. Evans said that they have asked for a list of chemicals that are used in the lab. Safety in the lab will be the responsibility of the UHD safety officer.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The survey developed by Senator D. Ryden has been provided to faculty senators. Senator Ryden said the ad hoc committee suggested that a question be included that deals with academic honesty/dishonesty. Senator T. Workman suggested that the survey use “I feel...” As item stems for the statements. Senator Workman said that what we truly need to learn is how our faculty “feel” about online courses. He will provide some questions to Senator Ryden. Senator N. Sullivan suggested that we should have two different questions regarding adjuncts. VP B. Belbot referred to question #9. Senator Henney referred to question #8 and pointed out that right now it is not even a possibility to have an entire degree online; only degree completion is available. Senator R. Chiquillo suggested that it would be good to have a question about student evaluations of online courses. President Moosally and VP Belbot said that there is a lot of literature on assessment of online courses. Senator R. Beebee has done a lot of online teaching and assessment of online courses. He wants to know what we are talking about in regard to “reviewing” the class. Also, question #10 seems to suggest that “online” classes are not as good as f2f classes. Senator Johnson said this is an issue because certain science organizations will not accept online courses. Senator Beebee said that there is an underlying assumption in the question that online courses are less than f2f courses. It is a different question to ask about acceptance of online courses by graduate programs, etc. Senator J. Pavletich said some of her colleagues wanted to know the level of technological literacy that the student has that will allow the student to succeed in an online course. It was suggested that before a student is allowed to take an online course that there should be some sort of primer. Senator Sullivan wanted to know that there is some way to assure consistency with our program; she does think we should be able to disclose what is online and what is not online. It was pointed out that those courses offered online should be going through the same departmental review. President Moosally said her understanding is that there would be a question on the survey about departmental review. It was suggested that it should be a given that the course is reviewed by the department. President Moosally pointed out that it is NOT a new course. Senator Henney said that there was a proposal to assess whether the student was ready to take an online course. However, this was shut-down at the administrative level. President Moosally said that she saw that proposal but she was not clear that the proposal had any faculty review. She also understands that it might have been shut-down by administration because online is seen as way to increase our enrollment. Senator Henney said that student evaluations submitted are fewer, so we need to ask a question about why students do not respond to evaluation. Senator Henney said that anyone is welcome to look at her course. There was some discussion between Senators Sullivan and Henney about the implication that online courses are “watered-down.” Senator Jackson asked how many in attendance think that online courses are the equivalent of f2f courses. President Moosally said she would prefer not to get a response to Senator Jackson’s question. Senator Chiquillo said she would like to ask questions to assure that the students have DSL, etc available. She thinks we should know whether students really have access (to the internet) the way they should have access. Senator T. Redl suggested developing a faculty primer. Senator Lyons said he cannot answer a lot of the questions because he has never taught an online course. He thought it would

be helpful to have some information about how to teach an online course. President Moosally suggested that question #3 include ask “why not” and ask for a number of reasons. President Moosally said she would like to know why. VP Belbot said that the TTLC has lots of training courses for faculty who are getting ready to teach online. Senator Redl asked if the TTLC courses certify one to teach online. VP Belbot said that those courses get you started, but that they do not provide a certification. Senator Workman suggested two different surveys be used: one for those who have taught online and one for those who have not taught online. Senator C. Bedard pointed out that there are so many valuable courses that could be taught online and some courses that are not suited to online courses. President Moosally asked if we should review the survey again. Senator Flosi said, “Yes.” President Moosally pointed out that we were going to do this on March 23<sup>rd</sup>; she asked that Senator Ryden and his subcommittee revise the survey and get input via email. Senator Ryden pointed out that this is a matter that affects us all. He referred to the COB class caps.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Davis, Secretary