

**Faculty Senate
May 01, 2013
Minutes**

Members Present: M. Akladios, L. Chan, G. Collins, D. Garrison, L. Gossett, B. Grigsby, T. Hammer, W. Hoston, S. Larson, S. Masood, F. Matthews, P. McCormack, S. McIntyre, T. Michael, W. Norwood, K. Parsons, C. Peres, A. Perez-Davila, M. Peters, R. Puzdrowski, B. Rashid, L. Robinson, H. Shin, F. Simieou, L. Jean Walker, C. Ward, J. Willis, K. Ley.

Members Absent: K. Divoll, S. Graves, R. Mills, M. Short.

Others Present: D. Biggers, Z. Czajkiewicz, S. Gladden, R. Short, C. Stockton, G. Houston.

Approval of Minutes – April 03, 2013

The minutes were approved as presented.

Provost Report – Dr. Stockton

Provost Stockton reported on the Quarterly Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Meeting. At that meeting, new legislation relating to low-producing program review was proposed. This legislation proposes that the THECB will continue to review low-producing programs, but will not have the authority to close those programs. Following program review, the THECB will forward recommendations to the UH-System Board of Regents (BOR). Dr. Stockton predicted that BOR recommendations would then be forwarded to Chancellor Khator, President Staples and then to the Provost. Any requests to retain low-producing will then be made to the BOR. Approval of this new regulation is still pending. Dr. Stockton said that there was no update on approval of the proposed increased standards for low-producing programs.

The THECB is considering changing the law that requires students 30 years old and under to take the Meningitis Immunization. The proposed age range will now be 22 years and younger.

The THECB has given South Texas College authority to offer a Bachelors of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership. The program's first 90 credit hours will be competency based. Students will be able to take a module and a test and be granted 90 semester hours if they pass. The last 30 hours will be a partnership with A&M Commerce offered face-to-face and online. This will be the institution's second bachelor's degree.

The THECB is also considering new legislation that will allow community colleges with Bachelor of Applied Technology degree granting authority to offer a second similar degree (same CIP code) without seeking THECB authority.

The Houston Community College applied for authority to offer a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Currently, in Florida, community college systems are authorized to offer bachelor degrees. Hopefully, Texas will not follow this trend. Dr. Stockton emphasized the importance of UHCL's Four-Year Initiative in light of this growing trend.

Beginning fall 2013, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Exam will be implemented. Universities will be required to administer the exam to all entering freshman college students who do not meet entrance requirements because of low SAT, STARS and TAKS scores. The state's expectation is that institutions will give those students the TSI exam to differentiate borderline and above competency students from those who score lower. Above borderline competency students will be given refresher courses. Institutions will develop a plan to help those students be successful. Students with below borderline scores will follow the Adult Basic Education. This exam applies only to students who do not meet the standard entrance requirements such as SAT, STARS, Accuplacer exam. UHCL will not offer developmental education. However, according to this new

law, developmental education has changed because of the approved TSI requirement. Dr. Bendeck will provide additional details on TSI to the campus community.

Dr. Stockton announced that campus interviews for the UH Provost position were ongoing. Also, Board of Regents Meetings are scheduled for May 13 & 14, 2013. Agenda items include UCHL's Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program and FY2014 Tuition and Fees.

Senate Committee Reports

Budget Committee: No report.

Research Committee: Dr. Gossett reported that a new staff position was approved in the Office of Sponsored Programs to expedite grant processing.

Budget Committee/PBC Report: Dr. Michael reported that at the last Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) meeting, UHCL's FY2014 priorities were discussed. Although there was considerable discussion about the Four Year Initiative, PBC did not vote to approve the funding request. Dr. Michael indicated that PBC discussed and approved priorities 1-9. Also, PBC reordered several priorities - Priority 9 (Fire Professional Staff) was moved to Priority 8, Priority 8 (Adjunct Pay Increase) was moved to Priority 6, Priority 6 (Director of Emergency Management and M & O support) was moved to Priority 7; Priority 7 and (Major Gift Officer and M & O Support) moved to Priority 9. Dr. Michael asked members to email him for further information about the priorities.

Dr. Michael said that PBC received recommendations for parking fee increases from the Parking Committee. PBC voted and approved the recommendations. However, following discussion, PBC determined that the recommendations had not been presented to the Facilities and Support Services Committee (FSSC) prior to PBC. Parking Committee is a sub-committee of FSSC. It was noted that the proposed fee increases would be addressed at the next FSSC meeting.

Shared Governance Reports

University Life Committee (ULC): Dr. Perez-Davila stated that Chief Willingham was invited to ULC meeting to discuss parking issues. ULC learned of the infrastructural issues as well as the high cost of repairing the gate arms to parking lot A. Consequently, the gate arms will not be repaired. ULC learned that the entire parking policy will be reviewed.

Faculty Life: Dr. Matthews stated that the Faculty Workload Policy will be reviewed in the fall 2013 semester.

QEP Report

Dr. L. Jean Walker stated that the QLT Committee finalized the criteria to approve syllabi for Applied Critical Thinking courses. Faculty who attended both QEP workshops and would like to develop ACT courses for fall 2013 should contact Kevin Barlow or their faculty leads to get a copy of the criteria. Syllabi could be submitted through Kevin Barlow's office effective April 29th. Faculty who attended the first set of workshops, known as cohort one, will be asked to attend a Professional Development workshop the weekend of November 1st. Faculty who have not attended workshops and are interested in being part of cohort two should mark their calendars for the weekend of September 27th and send an email to Kevin Barlow to sign up for these workshops. At this point, we believe these dates to be firm. Faculty leads for each school are available to work with individual faculty members in developing or refining their syllabi for ACT course approval. Faculty leads: BUS- Ken Black, Trey Voelker; HSH - Rob Bartsch, Shreerekha Subramanian; SCE - Raj Chhikara, Larry Rhode, Larry Kajs and SOE- Randy SeEVERS and Larry Kajs.

Announcements

Dr. Ley announced that based on votes received, the 2013-14 Faculty Senate president-elect is Dr. Chris Ward. Faculty Senate Executive Committee recommendations for FS committee chairpersons are Frank

Matthews (Faculty Life); Lisa Gossett (Research); Jana Willis (Curriculum and Teaching); Leroy Robinson (Budget Committee). On a motion and second the appointments were approved.

New Business

Minor in Latino and Latin American Studies (LLAS) at UHCL. On behalf of the working group, Latino and Latin American Studies, Dr. Daniel Haworth, HSH Associate Professor presented the initiative for the implementation of the minor degree. The working group has designed a 12-semester credit hours degree consisting of courses already in the UHCL undergraduate course inventory. The minor was originally design as a 15 SCH degree, but in its current form it is 12 hours. Dr. Haworth said that there is critical need for the minor because of UHCL's growing Latino enrollment which prompted the US Department designation of Hispanic-Serving Institution. Also, more opportunities to make post-secondary education accessible to Latino students are needed. Additionally, there are 4 federal funding agencies available to Hispanic-serving institutions. The minor is diverse and rigorous and will be open to students from the other academic schools. When and if it is possible, HSH will be ready to expand to 15 or more credit hours as well as to include prerequisites and lower division credit. Some institutions require 18 hours for the minor degree.

The senate discussed the development and implementation of the minor degree extensively. Comments from senators include:

- Comparisons with peer institutions revealed that there are hardly any minors with less than 15 SCHs; there is a lot of diversity regarding the number of hours for a minor; there will be pressure for other disciplines to limit other minor programs to 12 hours
- Standards for minors need to be set regarding the number of hours; UHCL should not be below the standard; Academic rigor need to be maintained
- Implement LLAS as a sub plan or a concentration and roll over to a minor later
- Implement on a temporary basis as an experimental program maybe 5 years and evaluate thereafter
- The minor may make it possible to apply for grants but those grants may not be approved. The minor may not be competitive for grants.
- There is no question of the validity of the minor, but policy guidelines are needed.

Provost Stockton explained that there needs to be university policy guiding development and implementation of minor degrees. Currently, there is no university policy. There is no authority to approve the minor in the absence of policy. The degree cannot be added to the catalog, transcripts or PeopleSoft without policy. Issues such as downward expansion, 120-hour rule, the new core curriculum, posting of minors on transcripts, student transfer hours are to be considered in the development of policy. Furthermore, comparison with other 4-year institutions cannot be made as the submitted proposal is intended for the junior and senior level. Provost Stockton said that he would support development of courses that can be applied to LLAS. Also, he would assist with grant applications. He asked if grants applications were specific to the minor degree or could they presented as a set of courses. We cannot refer to a minor degree without a policy. Dr. Haworth responded that the language of the grant is different to the feedback from agencies. Provost Stockton reiterated support for the development of courses and assistance with grants. A vote to approve the minor as a pilot program failed. There was no senate consensus to approve the initiative.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.