**FACULTY SENATE**

**April 02, 2014**

**Minutes (Revised)**

**Members Present**: M. Akladios, W. Amonette, J. Bechtold, C. Diepenbrock, K. Divoll, J. Fritz, D. Garrison,

L. Gossett, A. Johnston K. Ley, S. Masood, S. McIntyre, T. Michael, I. Pavlova, M. Peters, A. Perez-Davila, R. Puzdrowski, B. Rashid, R. Mohammad, L. Robinson, L. June Shiau, M. Short, J. Smith, B. Stephens,

L. Jean Walker, C. Ward, J. Willis, P. Withey, D. Shulsky

**Members Absent**: W. Amonette, S. Graves, D. Haworth, P. McCormack, F. Simieou, A. Valenti

**Others Present**: D. Biggers, S. Gladden, K. Matthew, R. Short, M. Varma, C. Stockton, K. Wielhorski,

Z. Czajkiewicz

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

**Provost’s Report**

Dr. Stockton thanked faculty members for their service on search committees to appoint new faculty. Human Resources reported that 17 new faculty have signed acceptance letters for fall 2014. There are currently 35 on-going faculty searches. Dr. Stockton noted that in fall 2019, there may be 30-35 promotion and tenure documents for review. UHCL’s core curriculum was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). 1620 freshmen student applications have been received. Research data projects an average of 20% of applicants matriculate and register as students. Therefore, we are on target. 372 applicants were denied and a large number of applications are pending release of SAT scores. A site visit regarding the Curriculum & Instruction Doctoral Program was held with 3 external evaluators and 2 THECB staff members. They were supportive of the program. We expect approval at the July THECB meeting.

**Spring Faculty Assembly Report**

Dr. Garrison provided a brief report on the results of the faculty climate survey which were released at the assembly. The final results articulated areas that we are doing well and others to be improved. This information will be shared so that areas outside the realm of the senate may be worked on at the school and/or upper administration levels. One of the areas to be improved includes fostering excellence in teaching. The Senate is working with the Provost and the Council of Professors on reorganizing the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Center (TLEC). Also, one additional area to be addressed is fostering excellence in faculty research. The senate research committee will work on identifying barriers in faculty research and ways to foster excellence in research next year. Another area identified is the need for on-campus child care, an issue common to all UH-System campuses. The president of the UH-D Faculty Senate attended the assembly and shared that a UH-System joint-resolution on child care has been put forward. Other issues identified in the results include shared governance, academic integrity and faculty salaries. These issues will be addressed next year. Dr. Jana Willis was nominated for president-elect at the assembly. She accepted the nomination. A ballot to elect Senate president-elect will be distributed to faculty shortly.

**Shared Governance Committee Reports**

**University Life Committee (ULC)**:Dr. Perez-Davila stated the ULC will vote electronically on the revised smoking policy. Mr. Martaindale attended ULC to discuss recycling efforts on campus. The custodial and grounds department is currently directing recycling efforts. Hand sanitizers are available in the vending areas that have microwaves. ULC is working on identifying additional areas where hand sanitizers may be most beneficial. Renovation projects relating to the four year initiative are on-going.

**Facilities & Support Services Committee (FSSC)**: Dr. Rashid reported that renovations to Parking Lot D are projected for next year as funds are unavailable for this year. Additional updates were made to the Internal Facilities Use Policy. FSSC plans to revisit the policy at future meetings.

**Planning & Budgeting Committee (PBC):** There was no report as PBC did not convene.

**QEP Report**

Dr. Walker indicated that Dr. Patty Payette from the University of Louisville will meet with the Quality Leadership Team (QLT) on April 3 regarding her school’s model of using the learning communities to develop mentors, institutionalize the QEP of critical thinking and address issues associated with the implementation of ACT syllabi. On April 4, Dr. Payette will meet faculty leads from each school to address school specific issues. There are two upcoming opportunities for faculty development: the Foundation of Critical Thinking conference in July and the Critical Thinking Workshop at the University of Louisville in May. The QEP website is continuously being updated. QLT is working on identifying various participation levels in critical thinking for faculty and staff in order to provide a system for formal recognition for increasing levels of involvement.

**Senate Committee Reports**

Budget Committee: Dr. Robinson presented the committee’s resolution on faculty summer salary which states “*that UHCL consider increasing the current summer salary stipend to 1/10th of 9-month salary per 3 credit hour summer course* *where the current summer salary is 1/11th of the 9-month salary per 3 credit hour summer course for full time faculty”.* Dr. Walker said that the Summer Pay Policy states 1/9 of the salary, but in practice it is 1/11. She questioned the rationale for requesting 1/10 instead of 1/9. Dr. Robinson responded that requesting 1/10 is an attempt to get some movement towards funding 1/9. Dr. Walker suggested adding some language to that effect in the resolution. Dr. Diepenbrock pointed out the policy was revised in 2007 indicating *1/9 contingent on funding*. It may be more practical to ask for 1/10 which may be funded. Dr. Ward said that there needs to be transparency about the availability of funding. The issue is determining how many classes faculty teach in the summer. One member asked if there was a specific annual summer budget and whether the amount ever changes. Provost Stockton replied that there is no line item summer budget at the Provost and President Office level. The summer budget is embedded within each school’s 12-month annual budget. At the end of the summer, after all summer courses are offered, the Provost Office may move funds from one division to another depending on the year-to-year budget. Depending on enrollment in the summer, a school may not have the funds to cover the courses. An increase from 1/11 to 1/10 as proposed may result in less courses offered in summer based on the current finite budget. Also, sometimes low enrollment classes are endorsed in the summer because students need those classes to graduate. With this increase, summer class sizes will need to be reevaluated. *There was a motion and second to approve the Faculty Senate resolution regarding summer salary as presented. The motion passed.*

**Research Committee**: Dr. Gossett reported that Dr. Mary Short will lead the effort to identify respected open access peer reviewed journals with publication fees. The committee plans to review research already available on this issue as well obtain feedback from faculty on their experiences with publishing in open access journals. The committee intends to investigate and gather information regarding potential barriers to faculty research. The committee noted variability in allocation of resources across the schools. A universal concern raised was regarding UCT support in obtaining and using research software.

**Curriculum & Teaching Committee (C&T):** Dr. Willis said Dr. Houston and members of the Accessibility Standards Committee attended the last C&T meeting to discuss concerns relating to the Accessibility Policy. The policy will be revised as recommended and presented to the Senate. C&T briefly reviewed and tabled a proposal from SOE for a Bachelor of Science in Counseling. C&T asked SOE to meet with HSH regarding HSH courses included in the program. Discussion on the new program will continue at the next C&T Committee meeting*.*

**Faculty Life Committee**: Dr. Divoll presented the UH-System Faculty Senates Co-resolution on Child Care Access. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. The motion passed.

**Ad-hoc Committee on Faculty Workload Policy Report**

Dr. Ley indicated the committee convened and that meetings are open. Policy and procedures from comparable state institutions will be used in committee deliberations. The committee expects to complete and submit the report to the Faculty Life Committee and Senate by fall 2014.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**New Business**

Dr. Garrison talked about the formation of an ad-hoc committee on academic integrity, a recommendation from the faculty climate survey. A draft committee charge was presented for consideration at the next faculty senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.