

U N I V E R S I T Y *of* H O U S T O N

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes for September 2, 2009

A meeting of the University of Houston Undergraduate Council convened at 3:04 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library (2nd floor).

Members Present: Betty Barr, Amanda Baumle, Miranda Bennett, Roger Blakeney, Joel Bloom, Simon Bott, Agnes Defranco, Martha Dunkelberger, William Dupré, Luces Faulkenberry, Shara Zatopek on behalf of Catherine Hatfield, Debbie Hermann, Stephen Huang, Christina Hughes, Richard Kasschau, Iain Morrison, William Munson, Charles Peters, Melissa Pierson, Laurence Rapp, Richard Scamell, Kevin Simon, Ron Singer, John Snyder, María Soliño, Rebecca Achee Thornton, Nina Tucci, Jerry Waite, Lawrence Williams, Mariam Zakaria

Members Absent: Bill Barnes, Dennis Bozeman, Elaine Charlson, Sarah Fishman, Martha Haun, Randy Hayden, Djuana Young, John Zemanek

Guests: David Haydon (The Daily Cougar), Amy O'Neal (CLASS), Libby Barlow (Institutional Research)

Staff: Jeanette Morales, Heidi Kennedy

I Call to Order; Minutes for 4/22/09 and 7/29/09

Council was called to order by Dr. Lawrence Williams at 3:08 p.m. Minutes from 4/22/09 and 7/29/09 were accepted.

II Announcements

A NOTE: All meetings are held in the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library (2nd floor), unless otherwise noted.

Fall 2009 Meetings: 9/23/09, 10/21/09, 11/18/09, 12/9/09

Spring 2010 Meetings: 1/27/10, 2/24/10, 3/24/10, 4/21/10, 6/2/10, 7/7/10

B Undergraduate Council Web Address: <http://www.uh.edu/undergraduatecouncil/index.html>

Core Curriculum Website Address: <http://www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum/>

Undergraduate Studies Catalog Web Address: <http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/>

C E-mail listserves:

UNDERGRAD-COUNCIL@LISTSERV.UH.EDU

UC-DEGREE-PROGRAMS@LISTSERV.UH.EDU

UC-POLICIES-PROCEDURES@LISTSERV.UH.EDU

UC-CORE-CURRICULUM@LISTSERV.UH.EDU

UC-NEWS@LISTSERV.UH.EDU (Minutes only)

D Simon Bott informed the Council about his latest student success initiative: Cougar Cards. Basically, students collect these cougar cards at various UH events on campus. When a student collects 55 cards, they receive a \$1000 scholarship. This program helps encourage students to become more engaged in UH campus events. Dr. Bott asked the Council to help spread the word about this program.

III Appointment of Undergraduate Council Vice Chair

Simon Bott was appointed and accepted to serve.

IV Introduction of Council Members

V PeopleSoft update: Debbie Hermann, Registrar

Web addresses: <http://www.uh.edu/peoplesoft/>

<http://my.uh.edu>

A Registrar Debbie Hermann informed the Council that the 6 Ws modification for the on-line drop process will be in production at the end of today. This modification will exclude the Ws that don't count (i.e., medical and administrative withdrawals).

B Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Studies Agnes Defranco mentioned that 37,062 students are enrolled at UH. She also announced that there's a new "comment" function being rolled out for advisors to use when advising students. This new function allows advisors to record what was discussed in a student advising session. The target date for live production is October 1, 2009.

C APM Director gave kudos to Debbie Hermann for taking the lead on getting the Drop Policy amended. It is officially published in the Fall 2009 – Summer 2010 Undergraduate Catalog.

VI John Antel, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and Student Success Initiatives

John Antel spoke to the Council about top three undergraduate student initiatives at the University of Houston (advising, teaching institute - training graduate assistants to teach), and raising the retention rate) and how improving these areas will help raise UH to tier one status. Since the Council is largely composed of faculty, Dr. Antel challenged and encouraged the faculty to focus on the classroom. He said that faculty members control the classroom. Faculty can think of different ideas to improve student success and make a difference (i.e., provide more tutoring for first year curriculum courses, Simon Bott's Cougar Cards, etc.). Other factors that could help in student success were also discussed with the Council. Chair Larry Williams wrapped up the discussion of how there needs to be a shift in classroom culture among the faculty (formula funding enrollment driven mindset v.s. the emphasis on teaching and working with the student). He encouraged the members to talk to their colleagues about student success in the classroom.

VII Old/New Business

New:

A Bill Dupré brought forth the concern that in PeopleSoft, grade changes (particularly incomplete grades) aren't converting to correct class standing status which puts some of his students in suspension. Debbie Hermann mentioned that converting grade changes to status changes is programmatic and available in PeopleSoft. She asked Dr. Dupré to provide her with cases so she can look into the issue.

B Issues of campus parking were raised and discussed among the Council members. Chair Larry Williams recommended that the Council forward their parking concerns to the Faculty Senate.

VIII Adjournment at 4:24 pm