

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

## UNDERGRADUATE COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE Minutes for September 7, 2011

A meeting of the University of Houston Faculty Senate Undergraduate Committee convened at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, in room 306, M.D. Anderson Library (Faculty Senate Office).

Members Present: Richard Armstrong, Leonard Bachman, Brandon Balwant, Roger Blakeney, Simon Bott, Carmen Carter, Mary Dawson, Agnes DeFranco, Richard DeFrank, William Dupré, Luces Faulkenberry, Tamara Fish, Sarah Fishman, Reagan Herman, Debbie Hermann-Henry, Richard Kasschau, Christine LeVeaux, William Munson, Mike Nguyen, Charles Peters, Melissa Pierson, Richard Scamell, Kevin Simon, Ron Singer, María Elena Soliño, Stephen Soutullo, Nina Tucci, Jerry Waite, Larry Williams, Barry Wood, Djuana Young

Members Absent: Martha Dunkelberger, Christina Gola, David Mazella, Ruxandra Prodan-Boul

Guests: Libby Barlow (Institutional Research), Alison Von Bergen (Dean of Students),

Staff: Jeanette Morales, Heidi Kennedy

### **I Call to Order; Minutes for 4/20/2011**

The Committee was called to order by Dr. Simon Bott at 3:01p.m. UC Member Ron Singer informed the UC that he was on medical leave and wasn't able to attend the April 20, 2011 Council meeting and asked that the minutes be amended. Minutes from 4/20/2011 were approved as amended.

### **II Announcements**

**A** NOTE: All meetings are held in room 306 (Faculty Senate Office), M.D. Anderson Library, unless otherwise noted.

Fall 2011 Meetings: September 28, October 26, November 16, December 7

Spring/Summer 2012 Meetings: January 25, February 22, March 21, April 18, June 6, July 11

**B** Undergraduate Council Web Address: <http://www.uh.edu/undergraduatecouncil/index.html>  
Core Curriculum Web Address: <http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/policies/degree-reqts/current-core/index.php>

Undergraduate 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 (Agenda and Minutes)

### **III Introduction of Undergraduate Committee Members**

UC Chair Simon Bott welcomed the 2011-2012 Committee members. He thanked them for their willingness to serve. Each member introduced himself.

**IV Alison Von Bergen, Office of the Dean of Students: UH Family Weekend**

Alison Von Berger, Assistant Dean of Students presented the different parent programs that the Dean of Students oversees. She informed the UC that there is a parent resource website that parents can utilize, [www.UH.edu/parents](http://www.UH.edu/parents). Also faculty can send out information to parents via a parent listserv. The University of Houston will be hosting Family Weekend on October 7-8, 2011. This event shows parents what their child's life is like as a UH student.

Simon Bott thanked the UC members who participated on the parent panels during the 2011 student orientations.

**V Administrative Reports**

**A** Steve Soutullo, Associate VP for Student Access and Success was pleased to announce that as of today (ORD), enrollment numbers are up 2.7%. Semester Credit Hour enrollment is also up 3.7%. The average SAT score is 1114: an increase by fifty six points.

**B** Djuana Young, Executive Director of Admissions informed the Committee that UH has hit record enrollment. The Office of Admissions has already started recruiting for Fall 2012: most of the admissions counselors will be traveling the rest of the fall semester. Also she reminded the UC that beginning fall 2012, the new Freshman Admissions policy goes into effect: the top 15% FTICs will be automatically assured admission to UH and FTIC applicants who don't meet the assured admission criteria will go through individual review.

Djuana also mentioned that there have been other changes made to help streamline Admissions processes. The first change is that there will be one Admissions deadline (combined Admissions and credentials submissions deadlines): not two deadlines as before. For spring 2012, the full admissions package deadline will be December 1st. FTICs will need to submit full admissions package for fall by April 1<sup>st</sup>. International student admissions deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> and transfer student admissions package deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. With these new deadlines, this will help the Office of Admissions enroll students into conferences in a timely manner. All students must register for conferences by July 1. The Office of Admissions will be finished holding conferences by the end of July. There will be two conferences in August for students who are unable to attend June/July conferences.

**C** Debbie Hermann-Henry, Registrar, informed the Committee that NR grades down by 38%.

**D** Agnes DeFranco, Associate VP for Undergraduate Studies informed the Committee that the Coordinating Board has made changes to the component areas of the Core Curriculum. She distributed a chart of the proposed changes. For example the core component area Natural Sciences is now called "Life and Physical Sciences". Also, new core objectives were added and integrated into the core component areas: Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility, and Teamwork. The second part of the core curriculum change is the reduction of the number of core courses. Several UC members expressed their concern over these changes. Agnes reminded the UC that these are proposed changes and that UC input is strongly encouraged. There is a thirty day period in which to make comments and the CB will eventually vote in October. The target implementation year for the newly restructured core curriculum is 2013: the university has 2 years to work on this task.

## **VI New Business**

### **A Undergraduate Committee Reorganization due to Faculty Governance Unification**

Simon Bott discussed two main items regarding the new Undergraduate Committee during this transition period: membership and subcommittee structure. He also informed that Committee that the UC is no longer bound to the former Undergraduate Council bylaws and will need to review/restructure former bylaws with regards to the Faculty Senate Constitution.

**Membership Reorganization:** Thus far the UC has 30 faculty senator positions and 26 of these seats are filled. NSM will need to elect two more senators (action pending since NSM needs to change their bylaws). Education will need to elect a representative to fill Joel Bloom's position. Pharmacy rep position is vacant but the College of Pharmacy wants to decline their faculty senate senator position.

Simon Bott brought forth the idea of inviting voting members (i.e., key administration), so that the UC doesn't lose specialized academic expertise. He informed the Committee that he made an executive decision to invite two ACT chairs (Kevin Simon and Carmen Carter) as ex officio members voting members. Kevin Simon and Carmen Carter co-chair the Advising Coordinators Team (group of lead academic advisors from each college). He also invited Student Government Association (SGA) representatives, Mike Nguyen and Brandon Balwant as ex officio student reps to the UC. Simon asked the UC to email their input to him regarding his executive decision. The number of faculty senate senators is finalized (30).

UC member Ron Singer brought forth a motion to create an ad hoc subcommittee to examine the former UC bylaws. Simon Bott added an amendment to include the ACT and the SGA reps to this ad hoc subcommittee. Larry Williams, Ron Singer, Richard Armstrong, Rick Kasschau, Christine LeVeaux volunteered to serve as the faculty senators on this subcommittee. Any concerns or comments about the restructuring of the bylaws should be addressed via email to Larry Williams.

**Subcommittee Structure:** There were four UC committees: CBM003, Degree Programs, Core Curriculum, and the Academic Policies & Procedures. Simon Bott reminded the UC that he had added a fifth subcommittee: the Student Success Subcommittee mandated by the Faculty Senate.

Simon Bott mentioned to the UC that Larry Williams introduced the idea of combining the Degree Programs and the CBM003 subcommittees and then dividing them into three small subcommittees (divided by colleges). The idea is to make sure courses are reviewed with the corresponding degree plan (if applicable). Larry Williams will take this idea to the ad hoc bylaws committee.

Simon Bott announced subcommittee assignments. Jeanette Morales was asked to send out the official roster to all members.

## **VII Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.