

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 18, 2017 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 10:09 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel, Conrad Hilton Ballroom, Second Floor, 4450 University Drive, Houston, Texas 77204 with the following members participating:

ATTENDANCE –

Member(s) Present

Paula M. Mendoza, Chair
Beth Madison, Vice Chair
Gerald W. McElvy, Member
Peter K. Taaffe, Member
Roger F. Welder, Member
Joshua Freed, Student Regent, Non-voting

Member(s) Absent

Durga D. Agrawal, Member
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

Spencer D. Armour, III, Regent
Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Regent

In accordance with a notice being timely posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum in attendance, Chair of the Committee, Paula M. Mendoza called the meeting to order. Regent Mendoza stated the committee would be presented six (6) agenda items: four (4) action items for the committee's consideration and approval and two (2) information items.

Regent Mendoza moved to the first approval item, the approval of the minutes from the February 23, 2017, Academic and Student Success Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

Action Item(s):

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

On motion of Regent Taaffe, seconded by Regent Welder, and by a unanimous vote of the members present, the following minutes from the meeting listed below was approved:

- February 23, 2017, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Mendoza moved to the next item on the agenda, Item C, the Approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System and introduced Dr. Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, to present this item.

Dr. Short began her presentation by stating that every year in May, the Board is presented with the recommendations of each of the University of Houston System campuses of those faculty who have been thoroughly evaluated and recommended for tenure and promotion. Dr. Short mentioned that this was a very rigorous process consisting of an annual evaluation, and in the third year, there is a mandatory review focusing on the progress towards tenure.

Dr. Short's office received requests from the presidents of the four System campuses of those faculty to be approved for tenure and promotion. The list of requests included a total of 97 faculty members: 13 from UH-Victoria, 11 from UH-Clear Lake, 14 from UH-Downtown, and 59 from the University of Houston. In addition, Dr. Short explained that once a faculty member has been awarded promotion and tenure, there was also an increase in compensation effective September 1. This increase is centrally funded with state dollars and designated tuition, and this line has already been included in each of the campuses' budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

On motion of Regent Welder, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request for Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System was approved.

Item D was the next action item listed on the agenda, the Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston. Regent Mendoza requested Dr. Short introduce this item for the committee's consideration and approval.

Dr. Short stated that each May she brings to the Board recommendations from the four System campuses for Faculty Emeriti Appointments. Her office received seven (7) nominations from the University of Houston, six (6) from UH-Clear Lake, as well as six (6) from UH-Downtown. No nominations were received from the UH-Victoria as they currently do not have any faculty members retiring.

Dr. Short explained that the Faculty Emeriti status was only conferred on faculty who were retiring or had retired, and who were considered by their colleagues and respective deans to have made considerable contributions to their universities through a long and distinguished service. Dr. Short reiterated that it was expected from those faculty members who did gain this title that they continue to give back, be willing to mentor faculty, be willing to advise the university, and contribute to the continuous growth and development of both faculty and programs at the university. In addition, Dr. Short stated that these faculty members also received additional benefits to receiving this very distinguished title, including UH email, cougar net account, library access, business cards, parking pass, cougar card, and now access to the new Faculty Café at UH.

On motion of Regent Madison, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the request for Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System was approved.

The last action item on the agenda was Item E, the Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science – University of Houston-Downtown. Regent Mendoza asked Dr. Short to present this item to the committee.

Dr. Short stated that the UH-Downtown was requesting approval of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. This program, which consists of 120 SCH, is an interdisciplinary degree with mathematics, statistics, and computing courses. This program would teach students to perform tasks of an analyst; to gather, prepare and explore data; represent and transform data; compute, analyze, and model with data; and visualize and present data to both general and expert audiences. Dr. Short commented that graduates from this bachelor's program would be prepared to work in any industry where big data sets have been or could be, gathered and analyzed to make informed decisions or enter a Masters level program in Data Analytics, Data Science, Mathematics or Statistics. In addition, Dr. Short mentioned that this program would also require at least one course in ethics to account for the abundance of morally difficult situations a data scientist may encounter.

Dr. Short explained that the demand for graduates with skills in computer science, mathematics and statistics was continuously growing; and they were needed in the energy, oil and gas, financial, and medical industries. In January 2016, CBS MoneyWatch covered a study conducted by the employment site Glassdoor, in which Data Scientist jobs were ranked #1 job in the "Top 11 jobs in America for 2016", with salaries ranging anywhere from \$75K to \$125K depending on the experience, said Dr. Short..

Dr. Short also stated that currently there were no Bachelors of Data Science degrees at the undergraduate level in the State of Texas; and that this program would be the first one available in the State making this a hallmark move for UH-Downtown. Additionally, the pro forma explains that the program expects to generate revenue starting in its third year.

Regent Wilson, Jr. complimented Dr. Short and UH-Downtown for taking the lead on this program and making it available to students.

On motion of Regent McElvy, seconded by Regent Taaffe, and by a unanimous vote of the regents in attendance, the Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science – University of Houston-Downtown was approved.

Following the approval of this item, a vote was called to place these three (3) action items, unanimously approved by the committee, on the Board's Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval.

1. Approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System;
2. Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System; and
3. Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science – University of Houston-Downtown

On motion of Regent Welder, seconded by Regent McElvy, and by a unanimous vote of the committee members present, all three (3) action items were placed on the Board of Regents' Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval at the Board meeting held later that day, May 18, 2017.

Next on the agenda was the first information item, Item F, a Presentation on Student Satisfaction Survey Results – University of Houston, and Regent Mendoza introduced Dr. Richard Walker, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to present this item.

Dr. Renu Khator began the presentation by providing some background information to the committee. Dr. Khator stated that UH had been conducting a survey from the national organization called NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) for many years. It is a long and detailed survey of different aspects; it measures how students are performing; and how satisfied they are from their freshman year to their senior year. In addition, Dr. Khator stated that there are surveys conducted by different units to find out more in depth information about how students feel about various service; however, Dr. Khator felt that there was a need for a survey at a higher level whereby students could take in a few minutes that would provide information on the areas that the university needs to put more emphasis on and be able to hold divisions accountable for making improvements.

Dr. Khator stated that a new survey was created as a result of this need. This survey includes approximately 12-13 questions and 2017 will be the base year. The results presented were for the first year and the expectation is that these scores would improve every year. Dr. Khator explained that this survey was another measure of accountability beyond what the university has on the Progress Cards. Dr. Khator then introduced Dr. Walker, who presented the results of the survey to the committee.

Dr. Walker mentioned that under the directive of the Chancellor's office, a committee was formed which included representatives from the divisions of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, Academic Affairs, and Administration and Finance. This committee created a survey that consisted of 13 questions. Beginning January 23, 2017, this survey was distributed to all UH students, (excluding new students), and the survey was closed on February 10, 2017. A total of 2,592 responses were received by the committee which is equivalent to a 6.8% response rate.

Dr. Walker presented a slide with the results from the survey, and this document showed a 5.0 scale from one (1) very dissatisfied to five (5) very satisfied as well as a 'no opinion' option for those areas that did not apply. The various categories included in the survey were as follows:

- Overall experience
- Sense of belonging
- Classroom instruction
- Academic experiences (referring to degree plans, advising, tutoring, mentoring and availability of classes)
- Academic spaces (such as classroom, research spaces, library and study locations)
- Student involvement (including student organizations and leadership development)
- Campus events
- On-campus shuttle service
- Quality of available food
- Campus grounds and landscaping conditions
- Availability of parking
- Technology services; and
- Sense of safety

Dr. Walker stated that the slide presented to the Board included the average score out of approximately 2,500 responses which included undergraduate, graduate and professional students. He mentioned that the area that scored the highest was student involvement with an average

score of 3.874, followed by classroom instruction with a 3.784, then technology services with a 3.747, and sense of belonging with a 3.713. The area with the lowest score and the only area with a score below three (3) was availability of parking with a 2.039, followed by quality of food with a 3.081, and then sense of safety with a 3.190.

Dr. Walker stated this was an interactive process and the university will now be able to obtain more in-depth information by giving this survey to the students, reviewing the information given, and then analyze the scores; for example, group responses in various categories such as gender, ethnicity, college, academic classification, and others.

Dr. Walker also stated that the goal was to distribute this survey on an annual basis and each one of the thirteen (13) areas on the survey has been assigned to a division which will be responsible for the improvement of those particular scores.

Dr. Khator added that the areas that had scored the lowest on the survey had been brought to their attention and the university was taking measures to help improve the situation; and this survey will help measure the improvement achieved.

This item was presented for information only and no action was required.

Last on the agenda was Item G, a Presentation on Student Success Story – University of Houston. Regent Mendoza introduced Mr. Hilario Yañez, who was a student from the University of Houston. Regent Mendoza mentioned that she first heard Hilario speak at the SURE graduation at Bauer, which she stated was an incredible entrepreneur program started by Dr. Saleha Khumawala. The Honorable Sylvester Turner, the Mayor of Houston was also in attendance at this ceremony where 91 entrepreneurs graduated. Regent Mendoza explained that after hearing Mr. Yañez speak at this ceremony she had asked him to share his story at our meeting.

Mr. Hilario Yañez, a student at the C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston, graduated with a BBA in Management Information Systems and Supply Chain Management in May 2017; and among his many accomplishments, he was finishing his term as President of the Management Information Systems Student Organization. Additionally, he has interned at Chevron, FMC Technologies, and would be starting a full-time career at Accenture as a consultant.

Hilario began his presentation by thanking Regent Mendoza for the invitation and the Board for allowing him to share his story. Hilario stated that there were five (5) values that have made him who he is today: faith, family, leadership, opportunity, and most importantly, people. Hilario was born in Mexico, and his mother decided to come to America when he was only one year old. She put both her life and her son's life at risk in hopes of providing him with a better life. His mother had contemplated going back to Mexico early-on, but faith intervened and a neighbor provided his mother with the number to the Star of Hope, and this provided the help they needed for her and the family to survive. Over the years, even though he had experienced a tough life, he was very thankful for the many organizations that had provided assistance to those in need.

Everything Hilario has accomplished in his life, he has done so for his mother. She has always encouraged him to do his best - attend and graduate from high school. Being undocumented did present a problem, but in order to continue with his education, thankfully, President Obama passed an executive order called DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) which provided students in his situation with a work permit. Hilario found a job to help pay for his education and he enrolled at the University of Houston. During his first semester at UH, he had his first interview with a Fortune 500 company, Statoil North America, where he landed his first internship, followed by a second, a third, and ending with a fourth internship with one of the largest companies in the world, Chevron! After all of the sacrifices and hardships he and his family had endured, he remembers standing on the 50th floor of the Chevron building, waiting to give a presentation, and then at that moment looking out the window and seeing his old neighborhood he realized how much he had accomplished.

Hilario is a first generation college student, and stated that UH had provided him with endless opportunities, such as internship and leadership opportunities; and has allowed him to become president of the largest business student organization called MISSO (“Management Information Systems Student Organization”). He also feels the need to give back to his community.

He discussed a unique program at UH called the SURE Program (“Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship”), which helps and educates entrepreneurs around poverty areas to build their business plans, financial statements, and marketing plans. Following graduation, these entrepreneurs do a pitch to investors so that they can receive funding for their businesses. This program has allowed him to take everything he has learned in class and then apply it to someone who really needs help in order to build their business from the ground up; and in turn, truly give back to the community. Hilario stated it was a privilege and an honor to participate in such a program.

Hilario’s first goal was to be the first in his family to graduate from college; and in May 2017, he was fortunate enough to realize that goal; and even more so to give this accomplishment as a gift to his mother on Mother’s Day! Hilario has now set a new goal for himself, to become an executive of a Fortune 500 company and represent the minorities and Hispanics. He will be joining Accenture and looks forward to being active with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Houston Partnership. And, Hilario wants to figure out ways to give back to the community, to UH and to the city that has given him so much. He also hopes to be able to come back in the future as a member of the UHS Board of Regents, and carry on that torch that helps students like himself reach their goals and to help more people to be successful in this world.

Regent Mendoza thanked Hilario for sharing his very inspiring story, she also congratulated Student Regent Joshua Freed on his graduation and on his upcoming marriage to longtime girlfriend and fellow Coog, Chloe Stowell. In addition, Regent Mendoza congratulated Provost Short on her son’s graduation as well.

This item was presented for information only, and no further committee action was required.

Lastly, Regent Mendoza mentioned she had received a call regarding a UH student who was hospitalized and who had received a double heart transplant. Unfortunately, this young lady’s body was rejecting the second organ and there was no option left for a third transplant.

Since this young lady was 13 years old, she has dreamed of obtaining her college degree but due to her critical condition she was unable to participate in the commencement ceremony. Regent Mendoza reached out to the Board Office for assistance, who in turn communicated with the Provost Office, who then immediately worked on a way to make this happen for the student, Gaby. Provost Short reached out to Dr. Antonio Tillis, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, who without hesitation decided to take the diploma personally to Gaby. This turned out to be a very special moment for everyone involved. Since getting her diploma, Regent Mendoza has received an update on Gaby's condition and she appears to be doing well. Regent Mendoza thanked Provost Short and Dean Tillis for making this very special moment happen.

Provost Short also pointed out the summer reading assignment that was distributed to the members of the Board of Regents, *Hidden Figures*, and mentioned that the author will visit UH in October 2017.

An Executive Session was not held.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

All documentation submitted to the Committee in support of the foregoing action items, including but not limited to "Passed" agenda items and supporting documentation presented to the Committee, is incorporated herein and made a part of these minutes for all purposes; however, this does not constitute a waiver of any privileges contained herein.

Others Present:

Renu Khator	David Oliver	Don Price
Dona Cornell	Tomikia LeGrand	Brian Thomas
Paula Myrick Short	Oscar Gutierrez	David Bradley
Elwyn Lee	Esmeralda Valdez	Raymond Bartlett
Eloise Brice	Chris Stanich	Phil Booth
Richard Walker	Sabrina Hassumani	Wayne Beran
Don Guyton	Dan Maxwell	Shannon Harris
Bill Staples	Mike Rosen	Hilario Yañez
Michael Olivas	Joe Bruggman	Jon Aldrich
Raymond Vic Morgan	Caesar Moore	Ryan Harrison
Ramanan Krishnamoorti	Asif Uzman	Cindy Mejia
Ed Hugetz	Neelesh Mutyala	Matthew Castillo
Mike Johnson	Macy Kelley	James Wofford
Marquette Hobbs	Glen Houston	Mike Glisson
Gerry Mathisen	Jane Ottinger	Dick Phillips
Brenda Robles	Ray Roberson	Pamelyn Klepan