

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

Thursday, May 16, 2019 – The members of the Academic and Student Success Committee of the University of Houston System Board of Regents convened at 12:07 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2019, 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

Beth Madison, Chair  
Paula M. Mendoza, Vice Chair  
Durga D. Agrawal, Member  
Peter K. Taaffe, Member  
Jack B. Moore, Member  
Andrew Teoh, Student Regent, Non-voting  
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

Non-Member(s) in Attendance

Steve I. Chazen, Regent  
Gerald W. McElvy, Regent  
Doug H. Brooks, Regent (via Teleconference Call)

In accordance with a notice being timely posted with the Secretary of State and there being a quorum in attendance, Regent Beth Madison, Chair of the Committee called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Regent Madison stated the committee would be presented six (6) agenda items: three (3) action items for the committee’s consideration and approval and three (3) information items.

Regent Madison moved to the first approval item, the approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2018, Academic and Student Success Committee meeting.

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AGENDA ITEMS

**Action Item(s):**

1. Approval of Minutes – Item B

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the following minutes from the meeting listed below was approved:

- February 28, 2018, Academic and Student Success Committee Meeting

Following the approval of the minutes, Regent Madison moved to the next item listed 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, who presented this item.

Dr. Short stated that every year a recommendation from the four (4) system campuses was presented to the Board for approval for faculty to be promoted in academic rank. These faculty members have been through a rigorous review process following a probationary period; and once promoted they would receive an increase in compensation determined by each one of their respective campuses. Dr. Short added that the compensation increase was paid out of state and designated tuition funding. The following faculty promotions in academic rank request were received from the presidents at each of the UH System campuses:

- University of Houston-Victoria: 10 faculty
- University of Houston-Clear Lake: 20 faculty
- University of Houston-Downtown: 15 faculty
- University of Houston: 59 faculty

On motion of Regent Mendoza, seconded by Regent Agrawal, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System was approved.

Next on the agenda was Item D, Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System. Regent Madison asked Provost Short to present this item to the committee for their consideration.

Dr. Short explained that every May a recommendation was also presented to the Board for approval of faculty emeriti appointments from all the system campuses. The emeritus title is conferred only upon retired faculty to recognize their long and distinguished service to their respective campuses and accomplishments in teaching and/or research.

Dr. Short stated that by accepting this designation emeriti faculty agree to give back to the campus by continuing to assist and advise the university as requested. The benefits received at each of the campuses include access to library, UH email, parking (in some instances), and invitations to campus events among various others.

The following faculty emeriti appointment requests were received from each of the UH System campuses:

- University of Houston: 17 faculty
- University of Houston-Clear Lake: 5 faculty
- University of Houston-Downtown: 3 faculty
- University of Houston-Victoria: 1 faculty

On motion of Regent Agrawal, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System was approved.

The last action item on the agenda was Item E, New Mission, Vision and Value Statements for the University of Houston-Clear Lake – University of Houston-Clear Lake. Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item to the Board for their consideration and approval.

Dr. Short introduced Dr. Ira Blake, President of the University of Houston-Clear Lake to present this item.

Dr. Blake explained that in 2018 the University of Houston-Clear Lake started reviewing the mission, vision and value statements in preparation for a new strategic planning process. A group of 27 faculty, staff and students served on a taskforce that would have collective input on how UH-Clear Lake wanted to represent itself moving forward. The taskforce worked from November 2018 to February 2019 and included focus groups with students, faculty and staff, as well as the use of electronic surveys distributed to the university community. The final set of statements was delivered and received the approval and support of the entire campus.

Dr. Blake stated that the new mission, vision and value statements were a more accurate representation of the University of Houston-Clear Lake's purpose, where they were headed, and the values they held that would guide the strategic planning process for the institution.

### **Draft Vision**

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will lead as a learner-centered university dedicated to achieving national prominence in transformative education grounded in creative activities, innovative research, and community partnerships that serve regional, state, and global locations.

### **Draft Mission**

The University of Houston-Clear Lake places its highest priority on serving a diverse body of students in every aspect of their university experience. UHCL's teacher scholars provide high-quality, student-centered undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students to thrive in a competitive workplace and to make meaningful contributions to their communities. UHCL fosters critical thinking and lifelong learning through a strong legacy of vibrant community partnerships complementing its historical focus on teaching, research, creative activity, and service.

## **UHCL Core Values (Proposed Revision 7/26/18)**

### **Learner Focused (1)**

UHCL is committed to maintaining and building strong degree plans that foster creativity and critical thinking. We are invested in our students and are committed to their growth, development, and transformation.

Impact: Inspire individuals to grow to their fullest potential

**Transformation (2)**

UHCL empowers individuals to learn, grow, and develop as leaders and contributors. We support, and foster leadership and collaboration among students, faculty, and staff.

Impact: Forge Visionary leaders who are agents of change in their fields.

**Innovation (3)**

UHCL cultivates fearless imagination when creating new programs, teaching methods, and research opportunities that prepare students to meet the challenges of changing global economy. We are attuned to social, economic and environmental changes and take timely action to respond to them.

Impact: Deliver the solutions to challenges of today and tomorrow.

**Diversity and Inclusion (4)**

UHCL embraces inclusion and cultivates diversity at all levels of the institution. We celebrate our status as a Hispanic-serving institution. We welcome students, staff, faculty, and partners from different nationalities, races, ethnicities, ages, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and physical abilities into our family and values identity through the lens of intersectionality.

Impact: Create an inclusive community that develops well-rounded individuals who contribute to the global society.

**Resilience (5)**

UHCL embodies perseverance, passion, commitment, resolve and grit to bring positive change to the university and community.

Impact: Evolve as a community to persevere through challenges and adversity.

**Service (6)**

UHCL is committed to community values, partnerships and collaboration. We create a service culture among faculty, staff, and students. UHCL maintains strong sustainable relationships by engaging various stakeholders to achieve mutual goals and objectives.

Impact: Develop leaders who foster the growth and wellbeing of the communities they serve.

**Integrity (7)**

UHCL fosters honesty and trust among all internal and external constituents. We are committed to our values and being accountable to our constituency in an atmosphere of generosity and kindness.

Impact: Build a community of trusted individuals.

**Sustainability (8)**

UHCL maintains stewardship over resources including but not limited to university finances and operations, the socio-physical environment.

Impact: Make a difference in our world for generations to come.

A brief discussion followed.

On motion of Regent Moore, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by unanimous vote of the committee members present, the New Mission, Vision and Value Statements for the University of Houston-Clear Lake – University of Houston-Clear Lake was approved.

Following the approval of the last action item, a motion was called to place all three (3) action items, unanimously approved by the committee, on the Board's Consent Docket Agenda for final Board approval as follows:

1. Approval of Faculty Promotion in Academic Rank – University of Houston System;
2. Approval of Faculty Emeriti Appointments – University of Houston System; and
3. New Mission, Vision and Value Statements for the University of Houston-Clear Lake – UH-Clear Lake

On motion of Regent Taaffe, seconded by Regent Mendoza, and by 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 16, 2019.

The next three agenda items would be presented for the committee's reference only. The first information item addressed was Item F, the Introduction of Dean, College of Science and Engineering – University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Regent Madison asked Dr. Short who in turn invited Dr. Blake, President of the University of Houston-Clear Lake, to present this item to the committee.

Dr. Blake was pleased to announce Dr. Miguel Gonzalez as the new Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Dr. Blake expressed that this was an incredibly important deanship to the campus due to the addition of the Mechanical Engineering program, various other important initiatives and support services for students.

Dr. Gonzalez received his doctoral degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston. He came from the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley as a Professor of Manufacturing with over 13 years of administrative experience. Although Dr. Gonzalez was not present at the meeting, Dr. Blake stated they were looking forward to having him join their leadership team on July 1, 2019.

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

Next on the agenda was Item G, the Introduction of Dean, College of Optometry – University of Houston. Regent Madison asked Dr. Short to present this item.

Dr. Short was delighted to introduce Dr. Michael Twa as the new Dean of the College of Optometry at the University of Houston.

Dr. Michael D. Twa came from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he served as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Director of the Vision Science Graduate Program for the School of Optometry with more than 25 years of experience in the academic field. His research interests included biomedical imaging, glaucoma, and soft-tissue biomechanics. Over the past 10 years his work focused on developing a new diagnostic imaging technology for use in the eye—optical coherence elastography. The goal of this work was to advance the understanding of tissue biomechanics and understand how structural degenerations influence health and function of the eye in glaucoma, keratoconus, and other diseases. Dr. Twa obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of California, San Diego; a Doctor of Optometry from the University of California, Berkeley; and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Physiological Optics from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Twa expressed his excitement to be back in Texas. He was a member of the UH community from 2007-2014 and was looking forward to advancing optometry and the profession at the best optometry school in the country!

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

The last information item listed on the agenda was Item H, a Presentation of Student Success Story – University of Houston-Downtown, and Regent Madison asked Regent Mendoza to introduce this item.

Regent Mendoza introduced Selena Garcia Palacios, a senior at the University of Houston-Downtown majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies. Selena, the proud daughter of immigrants, felt privileged to be the first member of her family to attend college. Selena was an active student leader on campus, engaging as a Gator Correspondent for UHD-NW and as a UHD Graduation Ambassador, and she maintains memberships in many organizations, including the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Theta Kappa honor societies, the UHD-NW Be a Teacher Club, the American Business Women's Association, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the Pre-Law Association. As the co-leader of the Camino a la Universidad mentorship program, Selena seeks to help at-risk, 7th- and 8th-grade Latinas see the potential in themselves. Regardless of her uncertain future as a DACA recipient, Selena bravely chose to dream and to encourage those around her to dream with her. After she graduates from UHD in May 2019, she plans to attend the University of Houston to seek graduate degrees in social work and law in preparation for a career as an immigration lawyer.

Selena thanked everyone for the opportunity to present her story. She was surrounded by members of the Latinas Achieve mentorship program for Latina students at the University of Houston-Downtown.

Selena stated the story of her family began with her parents' dream for a better life in the United States, a dream that included the possibility of a college education and a career for their daughter. Selena said she was able to achieve her dream thanks in part to the University of

Houston-Downtown. She faced many obstacles, one of them being her immigration status. As a DACA recipient she was ineligible for financial aid and her parents had very limited resources. Selena's parents did not give up on their dream and did what they could in order to afford payment of her college tuition, including scraping for metal around their neighborhood. Selena and her family struggled to make ends meet and were barely able to afford an associate's degree, a university education was thought to be completely out of the question.

Then, Selena found UHD and a wonderful community of people who were there to support her in achieving her dream. Dr. Diane Miller introduced Selena to their program, Camino a la Universidad (Pathway to University), which connects UHD mentors with Latinas at Arnold Middle School. Selena then received an email from Latinas Achieve, a program designed to empower Latina students at UHD, to build relationships with Latina professionals, community leaders and entrepreneurs to inspire students to dream big while equipping them with the tools they need to reach their goals.

Selena stated that what she loved most about Latinas Achieve was that it helped reduce the barriers some students like herself face in their academic and professional development and overcome her inner insecurities. Selena graduated Suma Cum Laude from the University of Houston-Downtown and would be joining the University of Houston to obtain her graduate degree in Social Work and Law.

After several years in the making, Selena's dream was finally coming true. She stated that as a first generation daughter of undocumented immigrants she no longer lived in fear of what tomorrow held. She planned to be an active member of the Latinas Achieve program as an alumna to help students and families achieve the American dream just like she had.

Lastly, Selena thanked the Board and Chancellor Khator again for the opportunity to present during the meeting.

Chairman Fertitta congratulated Selena on her achievements and Regent Mendoza thanked all the members of Latina Achieve and Dr. Muñoz for making such a wonderful program available at the University of Houston-Downtown.

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

It was noted that an Executive Session would not be held.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.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.

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Others Present:

Renu Khator  
Jim McShan  
Paula Myrick Short  
Dona Cornell  
Don Guyton  
Richard Walker  
Eloise Dunn Brice  
Amr Elnashai  
Ira K. Blake  
Juan Sánchez Muñoz  
Mike Johnson  
Lisa Holdeman  
Raymond Bartlett  
Adriana Perez  
Graciela Saenz  
Maria Del Pilar Montes

Ed Castillo  
Mark Denney  
Macie Kelly  
Wayne Beran  
Oscar Gutierrez  
Alfred Mimms  
Johanna Wolff  
Mike Emery  
Matthew Castillo  
Jon Aldrich  
Michael Twa  
Mike Atteberry  
Selena Garcia Palacios  
Diane Miller  
Lori Ramirez  
Lisa Alonzo

Marquette Hobbs  
Brenda Robles  
Joe Brueggeman  
Brian Thomas  
Shannon Harrison  
Ryan Harrison  
Gerry Mathisen  
Nadar Ibrahim  
Phil Booth  
Dan Maxwell  
David Oliver  
Mark Clarke  
Soledad Tamez  
Bonnie Lucero  
Helen Cavazos