

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

June 3, 2025

TO: Dr. Jerry Johnson, President, UHD Faculty Senate
UHD Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Deborah E. Bordelon 
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Response to Faculty Senate Resolution - SR 25-03 Date: 05/06/2025

I am in receipt of the Faculty Senate Resolution 25-03, which was approved by the Faculty Senate on May 6, 2025. In the resolution, there are concerns expressed about the process of shared governance and communication.

It is important to note that I, President Blanchard, and the administrative cabinet believe that shared governance is an important component of university life at the University of Houston-Downtown. Shared governance requires collaboration and consultation to ensure that faculty have opportunities to provide feedback to inform a policy and/or procedure decision before it is finalized. President Blanchard and I, as well as the other administrators across the university, are committed to being available and active participants in conversations to gain insights and/or address concerns. As Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, I am committed to attending Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meetings as well as Faculty Senate meetings. The Provost's Office staff is typically always represented and is available to answer any questions that may arise. I know that any administrative office on campus is willing to arrange a time to speak to the full senate or the executive committee whenever questions or concerns may arise.

University decisions depend upon input from a wide variety of constituents across the campus and system, which includes, faculty, staff, campus and system administrators, and students. Not every constituent is consulted at every phase of a decision-making process and not every constituent may view an issue in the same manner; however, information gathered informs the direction that the university needs to move to be successful. The multiple perspectives provide a stronger foundation for decisions. While some may disagree with the decisions being made, the administration must focus on the impact on the overall university.

Through a variety of campus committees, councils, and senate, university input is regularly sought, and decisions are communicated and discussed. We are constantly evaluating ways to strengthen communication strategies with all campus constituents. As Provost, I and the Associate Provosts meet with the faculty senate president and faculty senate executive committee on a regular basis. The President attends at least two or three FSEC meetings a semester. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss concerns, but also to provide the campus faculty, staff, and student leadership with information to share with their constituents.

Shared governance is extremely important as we review and update policies, practices, and procedures that are needed to guide the work of the University of Houston-Downtown. The university administration has consistently worked with the shared governance committees to meaningfully move policies and procedures forward – and will continue to do so. We also recognize that the passage of SB 37 will likely warrant the re-evaluation of our shared governance policies and procedures. As we receive more guidance from the state and our system on how to proceed, we will keep you informed.

The work of the Faculty Senate and the faculty of the University of Houston-Downtown is valued and greatly appreciated. When we work together, we can move forward to support and enhance the work of our faculty, staff, and students. I look forward to our continued collaborative work in bringing UHD to even greater success with faculty research, scholarship, and creative activities.