

FS: October 2022 Update

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Fall 2022 semester. Just a few updates for this year, so far.

1. Just a reminder, all full time HU faculty are members of the HU Faculty Senate. The senate is designed as an independent deliberative body of the faculty. The administration is required to seek out senate input on all policies that impact academic matters.
2. The senate committees and council have been contacted. Some committees have met and elected chairs. The council schedule is now on the updated website (hufaculty.com) and the council should meet for the first regular council meeting soon.
3. Three members of the presidential search committee (Morse, Howard, Sobrian) and members of the search firm, met with members of the council on Wednesday 10/12/22 for a faculty leadership listening session. There was an emergency call meeting of the council last week (no quorum) on 10/11/22 to discuss and plan for the meeting. In a nutshell, at both the council meeting and the listening session, council members expressed skepticism, disappointment, and outrage. Some council members expressed outrage that the senate has had zero input into the selection process considering the broken processes of the current HU administration. Some council members expressed disappointment that the search looks likely to produce the same poor outcomes of the most recent past presidential, decanal, and chair searches. Some council members expressed skepticism that the current search committee with an unusually large number of administrators and board members and no faculty members elected by the faculty to represent, report to, and get feedback from the faculty will select appropriate candidates.
4. My comments to the search committee and search firm at the 10/12/22 meeting:
 1. *There is skepticism and distrust about the search process by the council. I think it could be argued this is justified considering the recent decanal searches and the processes involved.*
 2. *In addition, the process has excluded the senate in almost all ways. This is unprecedented at HU and the minimal faculty input in the process by faculty and the search committee appears uncommon among our peer institutions.*
 3. *In general, we've said it for years and was a driving reason for the no confidence votes. Shared governance, academic freedom, and integrity over loyalty matter in the HU administration and Board leadership. We've mechanisms for shared governance outlined in our documents, when we've leadership that chooses not to use those mechanisms or pervert them we have the crises that we've seen for the last decade.*

I included the following links in the chat:

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/320.nonSEN-missingfunds.pdf>

<https://medium.com/@MarcusAlfredDC/howard-is-hurting-itself-984b446267e>

<https://www.science.org/content/article/atmospheric-science-overwhelmingly-white-black-scientists-have-ignited-change>

5. Please contact your council members and let them know your opinion. In addition, please contact the senate committee's and report issues that the senate should be aware of. (And you can always cc me). As always, if elected senate members are not transparent, responsive, and acting in the best interests of the faculty and university, we can be voted out.

Best regards,

Marcus Alfred, Chair
HU Faculty Senate