

**University Senate Chair Report**  
**September 1, 2020**

**Submitted to the University Senate**  
**by Mary Virnoche**  
**General Faculty President & University Senate Chair**

In my [welcome letter](#) to the University Senate, I set the stage for our work this year:

This year the Senate Executive Committee will center our May 2020 [Statement in Support of Black Lives](#). As we generate and prioritize our shared governance actions this year, we will regularly revisit the goals therein that focus on Black lives and our collective struggles for racial justice. As part of this process, we also embrace our responsibility as an Hispanic Serving Institution.

To that end, in your leadership and service on the Senate and other shared governance committees at all levels, I ask that you (continue to) adopt an equity and racial justice lens in developing new and assessing existing policy and practices.

We are in motion and continuing our generosity of spirit as community members navigate the pandemic and the personal/political fronts of the months ahead.

In this report, I focus on kudos for summer and opening week accomplishments. Below I share just a few threads that wove their way through the Senate Executive emails and zooms.

Please continue your efforts in your own units to acknowledge the many ways folks are going the extra mile, or just making it easier for folks to keep moving through the first mile.

**Students**

Thanks to new and returning students for believing in us and joining us this Fall in all our new environments for learning. To all the students whose lives required a break from HSU this fall, we will continue to work to make your return possible and rewarding.

**Senators**

Thanks again for fitting in time during your precious and fleeting summer to lay the foundations for our work this year .

**Front-line Staff**

Thanks to staff across campus who have been responding to student and faculty needs to be ready for opening days. Words like “amazing” are frequent in the emails I have received for all the front line support.

**Staff/Faculty Campus Parents and Supporters**

Thank you to Jessica Welch, Library ASC, and Nancy Olson, Professional Development and Training, Human Resources, for their ongoing leadership in convening and communicating with staff/faculty parents on campus. They initiated a parents Facebook page and are bringing parents together again to share information and support. Thanks also to staff/faculty parents who participated in summer conversations, as well as Stephanie Vick, APS Manager, AVP of APS Simone Aloisio, and Ariel Aaron, HR Benefits Administrator, for responding to faculty parent requests for more resources and forums for leave option clarification. Thanks to Provost Capps for working with EOC and enabling green days faculty office access and continuing efforts to be responsive to shifting faculty office needs.

**Chairs, FITT, and EOC (new world of acronyms)**

Thanks to all who researched and planned for face-to-face instruction and the protocols and communication strategies for opening our campus and keeping us updated on daily news.

**Admissions Staff and Supporting Offices/Teams**

Kudos for catching us, listening, and partnering on creative solutions for maintaining and building an amazing and diverse student community.

**Faculty, CTL Staff, and ITS**

Thank you amazing faculty for the heavy lifting of building meaningful, engaging courses that are a cornerstone of HSU, and all the layers of support from the CTL and ITS. Thanks to all who (re)examined their curriculum and pedagogy in our ongoing work to assure that our BIPOC students recognize themselves, their community concerns, and their dreams in our courses.