Faculty Senate Bill No. 424

**Framework to Initiate or Expand Programs of Study**

**WHEREAS** initiation of a new Program of Study (PoS) or the targeted expansion of an existing PoS by units outside of the affected program (an externally-targeted expansion) can provide financial benefit to and enhance the prestige of UAH in tangible and intangible ways; and

**WHEREAS** such efforts can impact existing academic units (colleges and departments) directly by increasing demands on faculty teaching loads as well as indirectly by pulling existing financial or infrastructural components from them as supporting resources; and

**WHEREAS** academic units and administrative offices at UAH both have vested interests to assure that such efforts are acknowledged if not approved by a majority of faculty in all affected units and that results from such efforts are designed to be successful to meet their projected targets; and

**WHEREAS** certain administrative aspects related to Programs of Study are provided within the Faculty Handbook currently as Establishment, Review, and Dissolution of a Department (4.4), An Academic Program Outside the Department Structure (4.6), Changes in Curriculum (8.3), and Appendix L; and

**WHEREAS** the period to express approval of and mitigate against potential failure for efforts to initiate or expand a PoS is during the planning of proposals for such efforts; and

**WHEREAS** while official policies and guidelines exist outside of UAH to certify and/or approve the development of a new PoS or the externally-targeted expansion of an existing PoS, no official policy or guidelines exist internal to UAH to assure that a comparable complete assessment has been done to the satisfaction of all effected parties before the results of such efforts are taken for external review or put into action;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that a Policy for the Initiation of or Targeted Expansion of Programs of Study is to be developed within the Faculty Senate at UAH; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that this Policy will present guidelines and procedures to evaluate proposals that are designated to create a new PoS or expand an existing PoS in a targeted manner for their impacts on the financial, educational, and outreach missions of UAH; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that, in accord with Shared Governance (Faculty Handbook Chapter 6) and other guidelines referenced within the Faculty Handbook, this new Policy will require that evaluations must be carried out by Committee representation from the administration and faculty of the effected units, must be completed in a timely manner, and must be reported in writing to the Faculty Senate and the Provost; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that this Policy will also define appropriate metrics for the Committee to make non-binding recommendations to the Administration in their final report using language such as Approved, Approved with Reservations, and Not Approved; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that this Policy will be in due respect to Board Rule 109; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that this Policy will be developed in a way as to be incorporated by proper procedures into the Faculty Handbook rather than sustained as a permanent Policy; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that all plans to initiate new educational Programs of Study at UAH or expand existing Programs of Study in an externally-targeted manner will be suspended until the new Policy has been duly approved; and

**BE IT ALSO THEREFORE RESOLVED** that all suspended efforts and all future will then be handled as directed by the guidelines and procedures of the new Policy.