

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2026

Time: 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Location Meeting: Space City Room, #214, Student Center South

MEMBERS PRESENT: (46)

ARCH: Christopher Battaglia, Patrick Peters

ARTS: Rex Koontz, Blake Wilkins

BUS: Ye Hu, Norman Johnson, Basheer Khumawala

EDU: April Peters-Hawkins, Kristi Santi, Virginia Snodgrass Rangel

ENGR: Gulin Aksu, Craig Glennie, David Shattuck, Consuelo Waight, Yaping Wang, Jack Zhang

GHL: JéAnna Abbott, Yoon Koh

HON: Daniel Price

LAW: Johnny Buckles

CLASS: Lisa Alastuey, Francesca Behr, Maria Gonzalez, Elena Grigorenko, Billy Hawkins, Scout Johnson, Melissa Markofski, Adam Thrasher, Zhiwen Xiao, Natalia Zhivan

COM: Tameka Clemons, David Curtis

NSM: Regina Capuano, Eva Harth, Chin-Yo Lin, Karen McIntush, Manos Papadakis

CON: Deborah Smith, Shainy Varghese

OPT: John O'Brien, Rachel Redfern

PHA: Bradley McConnell, Doug Thornton, Matthew Wanat

HSPA: Gail Buttorff

UNIV LIB: Mea Warren

MEMBERS ABSENT: (13)

ARTS: Rachel Bush

ENGR: Shailendra Joshi, Jian Shi

LAW: Alissa Gomez

CLASS: Pratik Chakrabarti

NSM: Guoning Chen, Casey Douglas, Stuart Dryer

OPT: Chi Nguyen

HSPA: Chris Bronk

GCSW: Jodi Berger Cardoso, Yvonne Mendoza

UNIV LIB: Leonard Martin

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Jim Briggs (Faculty Affairs), Sarah Larsen (Graduate School), Teri Longacre (Undergraduate Student Success), Claudia Neuhauser (Division of Research)

GUESTS: Raymond Bartlett, Katherine Carter, Diane Z. Chase, Daniel Davies, Hildegard Glass, Renu Khator, Micah Glenn, Karl Hearne, Tahir Hussain, Ferenc Bunta, Jason Porter, Shawn Lindsey, Keith McNeal, Sally Paulson, Andrew Joseph Pegoda, Sally Paulson, Jason Porter, Marti Trummer-Cabrera, Lauren Zentz

1. Welcome

Kristi Santi called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

- Elena Grigorenko, Faculty Council Presiding Officer

Things to mention:

- Working with a wonderful team
 - Updates on Initiatives
 - The Future of Higher Education:
 - John Sailer, The Manhattan Institute, August 26
 - Sarah Brown, The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 30
 - New Faculty Café/FED (FED@RAD) – Council leadership will work with administrators over the summer. Encouraged feedback from Councilors for ideas about the construction. Please send comments to UH Together/Your Voice Matters
 - Wishes for the future:
 - Open lines of communication (re: summer and beyond) – Council leadership will be available during the summer until the transition in August.
 - Working together with (not in opposition to) the administration
 - Enjoying the spectrum of talent both on the FC and at UC faculty at large
- Jim Briggs, Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs
 - Encouraged faculty to attend their college commencement and wear their medallion.
 - Expressed gratitude to the Council and the Council leadership, the committee/associate chairs, and ex officio members (administration).
 - Since the elections are mostly complete, the appointment process has been initiated.
 - President Khator
 - Pres. Renu Khator thanked the faculty for their work: 7,819 graduating students this week.
 - She hosted three committee appreciation lunches in which she listened to committee accomplishments and committee feedback.
 - Federal Updates:
 - Dept of Education: prioritize AI in federal grant competitions (advancing artificial intelligence in education): funding opportunities for K-12 and higher education.
 - New level of accountability framework:
 - Undergraduate threshold – earnings must be above those of a high school graduate

- Graduate threshold – earnings must be above those of a bachelor's degree holder
 - If an undergraduate or graduate program doesn't meet this requirement, the program will lose access to federal student loans.
 - However, this framework isn't finalized and is open to public feedback.
 - The NSF board was dismissed due to personnel changes (delays can be expected). Faculty may need to think about diversifying their funding streams.
- State Updates:
 - Senate Committee on Higher Education has a new chair.
 - Preparing to submit legislative budget request before the committee hearing in July.
 - Operational budget request (e.g., performance-based funding model), focus on retention and efficiency of degrees (SCH)
 - Waiting for the guidelines (core curriculum) from the Coordinating Board (CB). The core curriculum needs to be approved at the BOR meeting in August. The Provost will work with the Council and seek advice.
- May 21st Board of Regents (BOR) meeting
 - The preliminary budget will be presented to the BoR
 - Funding for merit raises
 - Funding for graduate assistant health benefits
- New Faculty Café Location:
 - Plans to move the Faculty Café to a shell space at the RAD.

A Q&A session followed regarding an update on international students and Faculty Café availability for other events.

Cllr. Maria Gonzalez thanked Dr. Khator for her leadership during difficult times.

- Raymond Bartlett, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Presentation: Transforming the UH Campus Experience: Connecting People and Places Safely

- Capital Construction Projects
 - Centennial project
 - Others of interest
- Safety & Security
 - Facts vs perception
 - Lighting project
 - Other security assets
 - Micromobility
- Budget Request
 - UH FH2027
- We are intentionally transforming UH
 - More connected feeling
 - More people-centered campus
 - Safer campus

- Centennial Project
 - Summary
 - University Drive: Ceremonial Front Door to Campus
 - University Drive: View from CPH
 - University Drive: Designed for Movement and Gathering
- Safety and Security – Essential to achieving our institutional mission
 - UH is a leader in campus safety among its peers
 - Lighting projects
 - UHPD Partnerships – Part of the Network of Security
 - MOUs with various law enforcement agencies
 - FBI Fusion Ctr
 - Recent METRO PD/UHPD/UHDPD initiative
 - UH is adapting to new risks and behaviors
 - Micromobility:
 - Task force created: Thinking about future issues
 - Not ban micromobility, but work safely with micromobility
 - Access Control:

A Q&A session followed about the spur 5, the status of the campus-wide business optimization project, food delivery robots, campus elevators, and safety concerns.

2. Committee Updates

- End of Year Reports
 - Faculty Affairs Committee - Melissa Markofski
 - Productive six months, thanked the committee members.
 - Priorities work
 - Appointments Subcommittee
 - Handbook Review
 - Watermark discussion & committee members
 - Faculty Resource Guide co-collab
 - Other tasks as assigned
 - Priorities
 - Dart Center faculty survey
 - Research services survey (405 responses)
 - Due Process/Grievance policies review
 - Syllabus Language
 - Subcommittee on Committee Appointments
 - FAC Chair Markofski thanked Mea Warren for chairing this subcommittee
 - Recommended members for several university-level committees
 - Conducted Grievance Election Results
 - 2026 Grievance Committee Election Results

*Three-year term seats (except where noted)

Tenured and Tenure-Track:

- Blake Allan, College of Education
- Jennifer Chauvot, College of Education
- Christine Ehlig-Economides, Cullen College of Engineering
- Jaana Porra, C.T. Bauer College of Business (2-year term)
- Jill Yamasaki, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Non-Tenure Track:

- Hilary Reed, UH Law Center
 - Monique Ogletree, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics
 - Quinn Valier, Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine
- Research and Scholarship Committee - Doug Thornton
 - Thanked the RSC members and Claudia Neuhauser, FC leadership
 - RSC Annual Report Highlights:
 - 25-26 Internal Awards Funding Stats
 - 26-27 APeX Speaker Series
 - Center & Institutes
 - Policy & Advisory Work
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Looking Ahead
 - Initiated a Research Planning Subcommittee
 - Established as a new ad hoc subcommittee in consultation with the RSC Associate Chair, VP for Research, and FC Presiding Officer
 - Year 1 operations begin AY2026-2027, with a synthesized report on multi-college research infrastructure needs targeting the May 2027 RSC Retreat
 - ADR Communication Recommendations
 - Three recommendations forwarded to the VPR:
 - (1) Schedule at least one annual ADR–RSC meeting;
 - (2) Develop a research procedure training for new faculty hires with DOR;
 - (3) Coordinate with HR to provide aggregate exit interview data to DOR for evaluation of faculty who depart the institution for research-related reasons
 - Continuing Priorities
 - Monitoring federal funding environment and research security requirements
 - Promoting broader college representation for the Award for Excellence and APeX
 - Expanding grant reviewing subcommittee sizes and exploring co-chair model for FY27
 - Curriculum Committee - JéAnna Abbott
 - Committee met monthly
 - Adopted a 3-tier review system
 - An expedited pathway
 - Six review teams

- Full committee review for proposals that needed this level of review.
- Created an SOP
- Reviewed:
 - 4 new programs, a number of program revisions, two core curriculum cycles, and several new policies and credential pathways; Chair Abbott highlighted the new university-wide accelerated undergraduate to graduate policy, which establishes a consistent framework for the 4 + 1 several pathways across the university.
- CC Chair Abbott thanked the committee members, ex officio members, Provost office, and staff.

3. Initiatives

➤ CCC: College Council Communication (Patrick Peters)

Initiative to enhance communication between the Faculty Council and the colleges. Council representatives were tasked with creating a communication mechanism between them and their respective colleges and this was reported at the March 25th Council meeting. Associate Presiding Officer Peters observed that there were five different strategies from the responses he received from the Council college representatives.

- Councilors report to colleges (and smaller units) at regular faculty meetings with intervals varying from once per semester to once per month.
- Councilors issue written summaries of Faculty Council activity at key milestones, such as at the beginning and ending of terms or following full Council meetings.
- Councilors serve on or report to the college executive committee to provide updates and context, as well as to take in feedback.
- Councilors provide information to and meet with Deans, Associate Deans, and Directors/Chairs to allow for information exchange and dissemination to faculty, through listserv emails or newsletters.

Strategies vary widely, but the value of UH Together is that it is weekly and that it goes to every faculty member.

The College Council Communication Initiative should remain central to the activities of the new Faculty Council, as it ensures that colleges and the Council work together.

- SOP: Standard Operating Procedures + My Voice (Kristi Santi)
 - Continuity – SOP
 - FC Website visits statistics update
 - Post Faculty Resource Guidelines to Council website
 - Goal: to create an AI agent so that faculty can search for a resource (e.g., search a MAPP policy, etc.)
 - UH Together – My Voice
 - UH Together will be published once a month or as needed.
- Voting
 - Bylaws
 - Robert's Rules of Order

- SB37 – clarification – reminder that FC is advisory

4. Other Business

- Staff Council Presentation, Marti Trummer-Cabrera (SC President)
 - Staff Council (SC) leadership introduction
 - Looking forward to future collaborations with the Faculty Council
 - SC structure
 - SC Highlights
 - Highlights (e.g. Cougar 1st Impressions, scholarships)
 - SC President Trummer-Cabrera asked councilors to encourage staff in their respective units to get involved with the Staff Council programs/initiatives.
 - Staff Centered Programs
 - HR Benefits fair
 - Spirit Bell Competitions
 - Welcome New Staff
 - General Meetings
 - Committees
- New Business
 - Faculty Council Election Results presented by Secretary Kristi Santi

The Faculty Council elections ended May 2, 2026, and the results were certified by the Executive Committee on May 7, 2026. Faculty Council elected seats are for 2-year terms except where noted.

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture & Design:

- Tom Diehl

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts:

- Juan Velasquez, Moores School of Music

College of Education:

- Dustine Thomas, Curriculum & Instruction

Cullen College of Engineering:

- Badri Roysam, Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Holley Love, Mechanical Engineering
- Xin Fu, Electrical & Computer Engineering (1-year term)

The Honors College:

- Carol Cooper

UH Law Center:

- Jessica Bregant

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences:

- Julia Kleinheider, Modern & Classical Languages
- Tara Green, African American Studies
- María Elena Soliño, Hispanic Studies

Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine:

- David Curtis, Behavioral & Social Sciences

College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics:

- Dan Wells, Biology & Biochemistry

- Albert Cheng, Computer Science
- Andy & Barbara Gessner College of Nursing:**
 - Shainy Varghese
- College of Optometry:**
 - Chi Nguyen, Clinical Sciences
- College of Pharmacy:**
 - Moosa Tatar, Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes & Policy
- Hobby School of Public Affairs:**
 - Sunny (Man Chiu Wong)
- Graduate College of Social Work:**
 - Sharon Borja

Run-off Elections – to be launched this week

- **C.T. Bauer College of Business:**
 - Michael Murray, Decision & Information Sciences
 - Funda Sahin, Decision & Information Sciences
- **Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership:**
 - Jaewook Kim
 - Yoon Koh
- **University Libraries:**
 - Katherine Carter
 - Wenli Gao

5. Adjournment 1:49 pm