



# UH Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

**Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
12:00 p.m.**

Faculty Senate President Holley Love called the March 26, 2025, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. She welcomed senators and guests to the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (117)**

- ARCH: D. Froehlich, M. Kyropoulou, E. Morshedzadeh, P. Peters
- ARTS: R. Bush, A. Cachia, J. Jansen, T. Van Kekerix
- BUS: W. Chin, B. Khumawala, H. Lin, X. Ma, M. Murray, M. Stewart
- EDU: S. Brower, B. Davis, T. Fedor Amador, S. Gronseth, M. Hale, K. Hassett, N. Smith, V. Snodgrass Rangel
- ENGR: G. Aksu, D. Burtleson, B. Detillier, M. El Nahas, J. Evans, H. Krishnamoorthy, S. Long, H. Love, H. Malki, M. Moges, H. Rifai, D. Shattuck, Y. Yao, G. Zouridakis
- GHL: Y. Koh, C. Taylor
- HON: M. Hanke, D. Price, B. Rayder, R. Sharp
- LAW: E. Berman, K. Brem, S. Chandler
- CLASS: J. Babcock, A. Badas, W. Breslin, F. Bunta, A. Castilla-Earls, P. Cirino, M. Cottingham, M. Cuesta, C. Ferrell, S. Gellon, H. Glass, A. Golubev, S. Grigorian, K. Haubrick, A. Hernandez, K. Hopkins, M. Ivey, J. Kleinheider, L. Leasure, V. Maheshri, D. Mazella, V. Ng, A. Pegoda, C. Sisk, D. Womble
- LIB: V. Douglas, L. Martin, A. Santiago, Katy Stein, S. Thompson, M. Warren
- COM: O. Adepoju, D. Curtis, G. Gomez, B. King, K. Pilkinton
- NSM: K. Bassler, T. Bawa-Khalfe, B. Bodmann, R. Capuano, A. Czader, L. Farmer, R. Forrest, T. Gill, E. Harth, R. Lee, A. Medrano, R. Meisel, O. Miljanic, G. Morrison, D. Pattison, R. Stewart, C. Wayne, J. Yang
- CON: K. Barta, C. Brohard, D. Smith
- OPT: T. Ferreira, R. Manny, C. Nguyen, J. O'Brien, L. Ostrin
- PHA: D. Chow, J. Hao, A. Marwaha, B. McConnell, V. Tam, M. Tejada-Simon, D. Thornton, M. Trivedi
- HSPA: S. Wong
- RES FAC: M. Ishibashi

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (42)**

- ARCH: J. Feng
- ARTS: J. Derges, R. Koontz, D. Robinson, K. Vlahos
- BUS: S. Basu, B. Carlin, M. Li, A. Lish, Y. Zhao
- EDU: C. Arbona, A. Peters-Hawkins
- ENGR: R. Ballarini, S. Joshi, T. Liao, P. Lindner, D. Litvinov, D. Liu, F. Merchant, J. Zhang
- GHL: M. Lee, J. Madera
- LAW: R. Knake Jefferson
- LIB: K. Stein
- CLASS: T. Chatagnier, A. Christensen, M. Markofski, A. Thrasher
- NSM: B. Dauwalder, S. Gilbertson, C. Lin, E. Papadakis, J. Subhlok
- OPT: J. Porter, C. Ribelayga

HSPA: C. Bronk  
RES CTR: J. Brgoch  
GCSW: J. Berger Cardoso

**GUESTS:** Raymond Bartlett (SVP, Administration & Finance), Jim Briggs (Assoc. Provost, Faculty Affairs), Heather Caslin (HHP/CLASS), Diane Z. Chase (SVP, Academic Affairs), Tameka A. Clemons (COM), Taylor Davis-Van Atta (LIB), Jacqueline Ekeoba (MATH/NSM), Mike Emery (Academic Affairs), Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Univ. Libraries), Lisa Holdeman (VP, Univ. Marketing & Communication), Mike Johnson (President's Office), Sarah Larsen (Dean, Graduate School), Jennifer Lazzaro (UHIT/TSS), Teri Longacre (Sr. Vice Provost, Undergrad Student Success), Claudia Neuhauser (VP for Research), Jason Smith (VP, Community & Govt. Relations)

### **Approval of Minutes: February 12, 2025 Meeting**

The minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **Texas Legislative Update with the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Government and Community Relations: [Jason Smith](#)**

VP Jason Smith reported that the Texas legislative session is halfway through: nine thousand bills were being filed. UH is tracking about 700 bills that are related to higher education.

- Budget: The Senate and the House passed their versions of the budget. Included in the budget proposal, the House will bring back the \$50M via the performance-based funding model (the Senate didn't have a similar version). The Senate budget will allocate funds for the College of Medicine and the expansion of UH Katy programs.
- SB37: The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a hearing last Thursday. The Committee heard good testimonies from UH faculty. The Senate Committee is in the process of making changes to SB37 and a new version should be seen next week.

Q&A session followed about changes to SB37 (i.e., faculty appointments process, performance-based funding, inclusion of NTT faculty, and the value of independent Faculty Senates.

### **Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost: [Diane Z. Chase](#)**

SVP Diane Chase updated the Senate on the following items:

- Dean Searches:
  - Dr. Xianjun Geng has been chosen as the new dean for the C. T. Bauer College of Business. He will occupy the position on May 1, 2025.
  - Graduate College of Social Work Dean Search: Search is nearly complete.
  - NSM Dean Search: The committee began interviewing applicants.
  - PHA Dean Search: Committee co-chairs need to be identified and will hire the consultant, Parker, to assist with the search.
- President's Circle Awards
- Faculty Excellence Award Committee: Provost Chase thanked the group for their work. The award ceremony is scheduled for April 12, 2025.
- Simple Syllabus has been implemented. Provost Chase urged faculty to try the new platform.
- Transfer of UH – Victoria campus to Texas A&M system: Transition is scheduled to occur in early fall. Dr. Chase wants to make sure the UH Katy campus has enough courses for fall 2025. She asked faculty to contact their department chairs if they are interested in adding courses at UH Katy. An additional CASA testing center will be placed at the Katy campus.

Q&A session followed with questions about five to ten-year vision plan for UH Katy, how to utilize the Katy facilities, core courses, and funding concerns.

**Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Senior Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance: [Raymond Bartlett](#)**

SVP Raymond Bartlett updated the Senate on the following items:

- State Legislative Items:
  - UH requested to increase 100% additional funding HEAF (deferred maintenance); The state legislature offered 50%.
  - TRIP funding (research incentive program): There is discussions of the legislature funding the UH backlog (over \$140M) conditionally if the program goes through a sunset phase.
  - A bill on CCAP (formerly TRB) has been filed (details TBD): UH will continue to monitor.
- Campus Security:
  - The security consultant was hired and is on campus performing an assessment. They will issue a report to General Counsel.

**Report from and Discussion with the University of Houston System Vice Chancellor and University of Houston Vice President for Research: [Claudia Neuhauser](#)**

VP Claudia Neuhauser updated the Senate on the following items:

- Federal Updates: Reviews of agencies are ongoing and will be ending soon.
  - NIH Impact
    - Nothing happens
    - Some researchers will be asked to rewrite
    - Modifications
    - Termination letters (two types): 1) researcher can appeal; Dr. Neuhauser asked faculty interested in appealing terminations to send appeals to her or the General Counsel. 2) can't appeal
  - DoR Events:
    - International Travel Workshop: business and personal travel
    - Research Security Training: Training required in May (available through CITI)

Q&A session and discussion followed about IDC, research security training (covered individuals vs. key personnel), and support from DoR for appeals of cancelled grants.

**Report from and Discussion with Faculty Senate President: [Holley Love](#)**

Shared Topics of Focus:

- Senate elections are at the voting phase.
- Faculty Senate Service Award (New Senator) is at the nominating phase
- Simple Syllabus: Launching phase
- Safety & Security: The security task force is gathering feedback. FS Pres. Love is meeting consultants tomorrow.
- Student Government Association (SGA) Status: The group is navigating turmoil – the SGA will be on pause at the end of March. An external consultant has been brought in to help the organization. VP Lisa Holdeman is drafting a fact sheet for the public.
- SB37 – Changing Roles
  - A few UH Faculty Senate senators testified at the TX Senate Committee hearing.
  - There is concern that concentrating curriculum decisions/faculty hiring to a few people, such as boards (non-faculty), will stifle faculty expertise.

- Institutions need to reconstitute their Faculty Senates (severely reduced membership): won't work for a large university. The TX legislature should view UH as a model of shared governance.
- Establishment of Office of Excellence in Higher Education: will cost \$1M for the oversight office. Core degree requirements: The TX legislature proposed to create a group to review core requirements. What is the final bill going to be? The TX Senate Committee on K-16 Education is asking for constructive feedback.

FS Pres. Love opened the floor to discussion.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment:** 1:27 p.m.