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# AGENDA

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## UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024

**TIME:** 11:15 AM

**PLACE:** University of Houston-Downtown  
Welcome Center Building, Third Floor  
Travis & Milam Rooms  
201 Gerard St.  
Houston, Texas 77002

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**Chair:** Beth Madison

**Vice Chair:** Durga D. Agrawal

**Members:** Alonzo Cantu  
Gregory C. King  
Tammy Murphy  
Mielad Ziaee- Non Voting  
Tilman J. Fertitta, Ex Officio

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I. Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

A. Call to Order

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

B. Approval of Committee Minutes

- February 21, 2024, Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee Meeting

**Action:** Approval

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

C. Approval of Faculty Promotion and Tenure in Academic Rank – University of Houston System 4

**Action:** Approval

*Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost*

D. Approval of Faculty Emeritus Appointments – University of Houston System	11
<b><u>Action:</u></b> Approval	
<i>Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>	
E. Approval of New Academic Program(s) – University of Houston System	33
<b><u>Action:</u></b> Approval	
<i>Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>	
F. Approval to delegate authority to the Chancellor to modify Test Optional Admissions standards for the campuses within the University of Houston System	41
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<i>Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>	
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<i>Presenter: Dr. Paul Kittle, Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs</i>	
H. Presentation of Research Highlights – University of Houston System	47
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<i>Presenter: Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research</i>	
I. Enhancing Student Success and Research through Innovation – University of Houston	48
<b><u>Action:</u></b> Information	
<i>Presenter: Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti, Vice President for Energy and Innovation</i>	
J. Success Story – University of Houston System	49
<b><u>Action:</u></b> Information	
<i>Presenter: Dr. Diane Chase, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost</i>	

II. **Executive Session**

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

- A. 1. Consultation with System Attorney Regarding Legal Matters, and/or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.071
2. Deliberations regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Sale or Value of Real Property.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.072
3. Deliberation Regarding a Prospective Gift.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.073
4. Personnel Matters Relating to appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees including but not limited to the Chancellor, Presidents, Vice Chancellors, in the Division of Athletics and members of the Board of Regents.  
Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074

III. **Report and Action from Executive Session**

*Presenter: Vice Chair Durga Agrawal*

IV. **Adjourn**

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Approval of Faculty Promotion and Tenure in Academic Rank -  
University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Board approval is requested for faculty promotion and tenure recommendations to be effective September 1, 2024. After rigorous review, the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and each respective President recommends promotions and tenure to the Chancellor who then makes recommendations to the Board.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Faculty Promotion and Tenure List

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



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**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

04/29/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

05/08/24

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2024**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>	
Business	Accountancy & Taxation	Bin Li	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Decision & Information Sciences	Leiser Silva	Associate Professor	Professor
	Finance	Antonio Gargano	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Finance	Zesong Liu	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Marketing & Entrepreneurship	Ye Hu	Associate Professor	Professor
Education	Curriculum & Instruction	Jeannette Alarcon	Associate Professor	Tenure Only
	Curriculum & Instruction	Conra Gist	Associate Professor	Professor
	Curriculum & Instruction	Jie Zhang	Associate Professor	Professor
	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	Dave Louis	Associate Professor	Professor
	Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences	Blake Allan	Associate Professor	Professor
Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Communication Sciences & Disorders	Ferenc Bunta	Associate Professor	Professor
	English	Sreya Chatterjee	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Hispanic Studies	Gabriela Ventura	Associate Professor	Professor
	History	Nandini Bhattacharya	Associate Professor	Professor
	History	Tshepo Chery	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Modern and Classical Languages	Emran El-Badawi	Associate Professor	Professor
	Modern and Classical Languages	Bhavya Tiwari	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Philosophy	Cameron Buckner	Associate Professor	Professor
	Philosophy	Joshua Weisberg	Associate Professor	Professor
	Political Science	Alex Badas	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Political Science	Elizabeth Simas	Associate Professor	Professor
	Psychology	Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Communication	Yan Huang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Communication	Jill Yamasaki	Associate Professor	Professor
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Biology and Biochemistry	Weiyi Peng	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Biology and Biochemistry	Mehmet Sen	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Chemistry	Loi Do	Associate Professor	Professor

\* Tenure

\*\* Hire with Tenure

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2024**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>	
	Chemistry	Thomas Teets	Associate Professor	Professor
	Chemistry	Melissa Zastrow	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Computer Science	Amin Alipour	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	Julia Wellner	Associate Professor	Professor
	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	Yingcai Zheng	Associate Professor	Professor
	Mathematics	Gordon Heier	Associate Professor	Professor
	Mathematics	Gabriela Jaramillo	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Mathematics	Daniel Onofrei	Associate Professor	Professor
	Mathematics	Ping Zhong		Associate Professor**
	Physics	Daniel Cherdack	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Optometry		David Berntsen	Associate Professor	Professor
		Eric R Ritchey	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Pharmacy	Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences	Jiukuan Hao	Associate Professor	Professor
	Pharmacy Practice & Translational Research	Nicholas D Beyda	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership		Priyanko Guchait	Associate Professor	Professor
		Yoon Koh	Associate Professor	Professor
		Chris Taylor	Associate Professor	Professor
Engineering	Biomedical Engineering	Jinsook Roh	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Praveen Bollini	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Jeremy Palmer	Associate Professor	Professor
	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Konrad Krakowiak	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Construction Management	Lila L Carden	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Jinghong Chen	Associate Professor	Professor
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Xingpeng Li	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Saurabh Prasad	Associate Professor	Professor
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Rohith Krishna Reddy	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Xiaonan Shan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*

\* Tenure

\*\* Hire with Tenure

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2024**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>	
	Engineering Technology	Jian Shi	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Mechanical Engineering	Hadi Ghasemi	Associate Professor	Professor
Social Work		Juan Barthelemy	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
		Sarah Narendorf	Associate Professor	Professor
		Quenette Walton	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
College of the Arts	Moore School of Music	Paul Bertagnolli	Associate Professor	Professor
	Moore School of Music	Ji Yeon Lee	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Moore School of Music	Edward Roth		Professor**
	School of Theatre & Dance	Sharon Ott		Professor**
	School of Art	Kelij Anderson-Staley	Associate Professor	Professor
Law Center		Andrew Michaels	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
		James Nelson	Associate Professor	Professor
		Amanda Watson	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*

\* Tenure

\*\* Hire with Tenure

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Clear Lake**  
**Effective September 1, 2024**

<b>College</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
<b>College of Business</b>			
Economics	Anne Anders	Assistant Professor	Associate *
Decision Sciences	Vicky Gu	Associate Professor	Professor
Decision Sciences	Lifei Sheng	Assistant Professor	Associate *
Management Information Systems	Michael Wu	Assistant Professor	Associate *
<b>College of Education</b>			
Educational Leadership	Felix Simieou	Associate Professor	Professor
<b>College of Science and Engineering</b>			
Mechanical Engineering	Mohsen Daghooghi	Assistant Professor	Associate *
<b>College of Human Sciences and Humanities</b>			
Exercise and Health Sciences	William Amonette	Associate Professor	Professor
Sociology	Jennifer Arney Cuevas	Associate Professor	Professor
Social Work	Heather Kanenberg	Associate Professor	Professor
Criminology	Hae Helen Jin	Assistant Professor	Associate *
Communications/Public Relations	Anna Klyueva	Associate Professor	Professor
Psychology	Georgina Moreno	Assistant Professor	Associate *
Industrial and Organizational Psychology	Lisa Sublett	Assistant Professor	Associate *

\*Tenure

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Downtown**  
**Effective September 1, 2024**

<b>College / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>	
Humanities and Social Sciences	Arts and Communications	Ayden Adler	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Arts and Communications	Ivan Gan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Social Sciences	Jason Caro	Associate Professor	Professor
	Social Sciences	Shahnjayla Connors	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Social Sciences	Christina Hughes	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Social Sciences	Joanna Kaftan	Associate Professor	Professor
	Social Sciences	Michael Lemke	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Social Sciences	Angelica Roncancio	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Social Sciences	Katrina Rufino	Associate Professor	Professor
Sciences and Technology	Mathematics and Statistics	Cesar Garza	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Mathematics and Statistics	Vasilis Zafiris	Associate Professor	Professor
	Natural Sciences	Song Ge	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Natural Sciences	Michael Tobin	Associate Professor	Professor*
Marilyn Davies College of Business	Accounting and International Business	Raghunathan Venugopalan	Associate Professor	Associate Professor*
	General Business, Marketing and Supply Chain Management	Dinah Cohen	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston - Victoria**  
**Effective September 1, 2024**

<b>College</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
Business	Jianjun Du	Associate Professor	Professor
	Feirong Yuan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
Education and Health Professions	Mary Lasater	Associate Professor	Professor
Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Justin Bell	Associate Professor	Professor
	Nicole Eugene	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Elise Hendricker	Associate Professor	Professor
	Anthony Madrid	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Laura Mammina	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *
	Jacob Snyder	Lecturer	Senior Lecturer
Natural and Applied Science	Mai Abo Shakra	Lecturer	Senior Lecturer
	Hardik Gohel	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor *

\*Tenure

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success  
**ITEM:** Approval of Faculty Emeritus Appointments - University of Houston System  
**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Board approval is requested for faculty emeritus appointments at the University of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake, and University of Houston-Downtown. The emeritus title is conferred only upon retired tenured faculty who have made a significant contribution to the university through a long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, and/or service. Emeritus faculty are expected to remain willing to assist and advise the university as requested, particularly in their areas of competence.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** List of faculty recommended for emeritus appointments with brief biography.  
**FISCAL NOTE:** None  
**RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item  
**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
04/29/2024

**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/08/24

**DATE**

## University of Houston

### Professor Andrea Prosperetti (Cullen College of Engineering)

It is with pleasure that the Interim Dean and faculty of Cullen College of Engineering support the nomination of Andrea Prosperetti for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Prosperetti's career at the Cullen College follows a notable tenure at the Johns Hopkins University Mechanical Engineering department, where his achievements earned him the title of Fellow of the American Physical Society, the Acoustical Society of America and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. At the University of Houston, Dr. Prosperetti's continued work in the thermo-fluids group has greatly strengthened his department.

Dr. Andrea Prosperetti joined the Mechanical Engineering Department at UH as a Distinguished Professor in 2016 after a long, distinguished career as a professor and department chair at Johns Hopkins University. His research encompasses fluid mechanics, multiphase flow, bubble dynamics, cavitation, and scientific computing. He is the author of "Advanced Mathematics for Applications", a reference textbook for graduate-level engineers, and also of "Computational Methods for Multiphase Flows", both published by the Cambridge University Press. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Japanese Society of Multiphase Flow (2001), The Otto Laporte Award from the American Physical Society Division of Fluid Dynamics (2002), the Fluids Engineering Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (2005), the Silver Medal for Physical Acoustics from the Acoustical Society of America, the European Fluid Mechanics prize and the Modesto Panetti & Carlo Ferrari International Prize for Applied Mechanics Academy of Sciences of Turin (Italy) in 2014, and the 2016 Ted Belytschko Applied Mechanics Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In 2012, he was elected to the US National Academy of Engineering (NAE). At UH, Dr. Prosperetti was the Founding Director of the Hewlett-Packard Data Science Institute (2018-2019) and the Director of the Center for Advanced Computing and Data Science (2016-2019). He continued to engage in high-quality teaching and scholarly research with publications at the top journals in his field, including collaborations with colleagues at UH. He has been instrumental in strengthening the thermo-fluids group in the Mechanical Engineering Department at UH, including the hiring of multiple assistant professors. He has been an outstanding mentor to young faculty.

After his retirement, Dr. Prosperetti plans to continue engaging with the department and the thermo-fluids group and continue with technical work and collaborations with UH faculty. His national and international reputation, knowledge, and experience would be of great value to the Mechanical Engineering Department and the College of Engineering, including his continued positive influence on the young faculty in his research area.

### **Professor Guadalupe San Miguel (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences** support the nomination of Guadalupe San Miguel for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. San Miguel has been on the faculty of the University of Houston since 1991. His contributions and influence on the discipline, department, and university are substantial. Dr. San Miguel has been a leader in his field of Chicano history, specifically in looking at topics of education history, music history, and civil rights history. He has authored six monographs, co-authored one textbook, thirty-nine journal articles, twelve book chapters, and countless book reviews. He is currently writing four more books. Among his most important books are *In the Midst of Radicalism: Moderate Mexican American Liberals in the Chicano Movement, 1968-1978* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2022); *Tejano Proud: Tex Mex Music in the 20th Century* (Texas A & M University Press, 2002); *Brown, Not White: School Integration and the Chicano Movement* (Texas A&M University Press, 2001); and *Let All of Them Take Heed: Mexican Americans and the Quest for Educational Equality* (University of Texas Press, 1987). Together this scholarship leaves a large legacy of discovery of stories that previously had not been told in history books. His research has received national and international acclaim, and he has received multiple awards in recognition of his excellent and important work. Entities including the Ford Foundation have funded his scholarship.

Dr. San Miguel also excels in the classroom. He is a master teacher at the undergraduate level, and he directed 14 thesis or dissertation committees, in addition to serving as a member on many more. His graduate students have gone on to their own professional successes, a clear sign of his excellent mentorship. Dr. San Miguel has also served in many and various leadership roles in the university, community, and internationally for more than three decades.

### **Professor Frank Holt (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences** support the nomination of Frank Holt for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Holt's contributions and influence on the discipline, department, and university are substantial. His research garnered national and international attention on several occasions, and his recent research on the history of coins and numismatics was featured in the President's State of the University address in 2019. His books total eight sole authored monographs and two edited volumes. Additionally, he has written thirty-seven journal articles and book chapters. His recent monograph, *When Money Talks: A History of Coins and Numismatics* (2021), received a prestigious funding award from the NEH Public Scholars Program and has been reviewed widely in general audience publications as well as academic journals. An earlier book, *Lost World of the Golden King: In Search of Ancient Afghanistan* (2012), was named a "Book of the Year" by the Times Literary Supplement. Another of his books has won similar acclaim. *Into the Land of Bones: Alexander the Great in Afghanistan* (2005) was also named "Book of the Year" by the TLS; it also garnered designation in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the top five books ever published on guerilla insurgencies.

Dr. Holt has received many teaching awards at UH, including a University Teaching Excellence Award twice (1990 and 2005). Master Teacher Award, College of Humanities and Fine Arts (1989); and 'Top Prof' Mortar Board Awards, University of Houston Honors Program (three times, once in 1984, once in 1986, and once in 1987). In 2006, the Teaching Company identified Holt as among the top 1 percent of professors in the entire United States. Finally, in 2022 he received the University Career Teaching Award.

His teaching commitments extend to extensive mentoring and outreach, in Houston, in Texas, nationally, and globally. In 1984, he led a Ford Project on Urban Education Grant to enhance the teaching of history in local public schools. He has conducted similar such teaching outreach symposia over the course of his career. For three years in the late 1980s, Dr. Holt directed the Houston Mummy Research Program at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. UH undergraduates and graduates benefitted from this work. Since the mid-1990s he has volunteered to mentor middle and high school National History Day research projects around the United States, in Texas, New York, California, Pennsylvania, and Colorado. Since 2015, he has served on the board for the Nankai University (China) International Program for Greek Studies. Last, in 2021 he became a founding board member for the Indo-Hellenic Research Centre in New Delhi, India.

In recognition of 42 years of outstanding research, teaching and service, I strongly support granting Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Frank Holt, in acknowledgement of his accomplishments and contributions and in honor of the legacy he will leave at the University of Houston.

### **Professor Matthew O'Malley (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics** support the nomination of Matthew O'Malley for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. O'Malley joined the Department of Mathematics in 1971 and has served his Department, College and University at many levels throughout his career. Over the past 50 years, Dr. O'Malley has been a champion for undergraduate education, having taught almost every freshman, sophomore and junior level course the department offers. Dr. O'Malley was among the first faculty members in the Department of Mathematics to develop and use online course instruction. He has a reputation as a quality teacher with a strong sense of responsibility and fairness toward the students.

Dr. O'Malley earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1967 at Florida State University. Before joining the University of Houston, he served as a part-time instructor at the College of the Mainland in Texas City. Since he joined UH, Dr. O'Malley has taught almost all of the courses from 1000 to 3000 level offered by the Mathematics Department and enriched our undergraduate teaching curriculum tremendously with his expertise. He has also championed an initiative to offer online courses well before that become an established part of our educational program. Without his input, we would not be able to teach the total of about 70,000 SCH per year by our department. He has also taught graduate courses in Algebra and Selected Topics in Algebra in many years he has been with the department, graduated 3 students and served on numerous examination committees.

The courses he taught benefited from the systematic line of research he developed in Algebra, documented by publications in the prestigious Journal of Algebra, the Proceedings of the London Math Society or even the Advances in Mathematics. The department is very indebted to Professor O'Malley's service as course scheduler. He was in charge of assigning courses and rooms to all of our faculty. Managing the enrollment at the beginning of the semester feels like taking off in a Jumbo Jet, and Professor O'Malley's expertise has proven to be extremely valuable to ensure faultless operations.

His continued engagement with UH as an Emeritus Professor will be beneficial to the Department of Mathematics, College of Natural Sciences and the University of Houston as he will continue to provide advice and mentoring on scheduling and departmental operations.

### **Professor Edward Kao (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics** support the nomination of Edward Kao for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Kao received his Ph.D., Industrial Engineering, 1971, at Stanford University and 26 years as a faculty member in the UH College of Business before joining the Department of Mathematics in 2002. He has published over 50 manuscripts in the general area of mathematical finance, probability, stochastic processes, and health care systems. Dr. Kao has served on the editor board of three journals and has published two books. He is currently working on another book.

Professor Kao taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses in the Mathematics Department for more than 20 years. His research was wide ranging and included stochastic processes, modeling of stochastic systems, dynamic optimization, stochastic linear programming, operations research in health care, Monte Carlo simulations, operations management, and statistics. His research has raised the profile of our department, in particular because of the two books he authored, titled "An Introduction to Stochastic Processes" and "An Introduction to Probability with Mathematica" that are ranked at 188th position in Industrial Production and Management and at the 160th position of best sellers in stochastic modeling on Amazon. Professor Kao is working on another book and would benefit from having access to resources such as his UH email, printing, and the UH libraries.

Dr. Kao was instrumental in developing the Mathematical Finance option of the Ph.D. program in the Department of Mathematics, which helped shape the department into a more applied focus. He taught a variety of courses, concentrating in recent years on probability and stochastic processes. He has a reputation as a quality teacher and is a strong advocate for his students.

Over the years, Dr. Kao has consulted with many large companies and organizations such as Mobil Chemicals, Planned Parenthood, Shell Oil and 3D International. His continued engagement with UH as an Emeritus Professor will benefit both the Department of Mathematics and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics as we move toward our goal of becoming a top 50 public University.

The Mathematics Department strongly supports the nomination of Professor Edward Kao for emeritus status.

### **Professor Lawrence S Pinsky (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics** support the nomination of Lawrence S Pinsky for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Directly after receiving his PhD from the University of Rochester, Prof. Pinsky came to UH as a postdoc in 1972. He became a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Physics here in 1975, then rose through the ranks to become a full Professor in 1990. In 1995, he became Chair of the Department of Physics and served in that role for eighteen years until 2013. In 2010, he was named a Moores Professor. Remarkably, while he was Department Chair, Prof. Pinsky also pursued degrees in Law, obtaining a JD in 1997 and an LLM in Intellectual Property & Information Law in 2001. Both of his law degrees are from UH. After receiving his LLM, Prof. Pinsky was given a joint faculty appointment at the UH Law Center.

Prof. Pinsky is a distinguished scholar and researcher in the fields of relativistic heavy ion nuclear collisions and radiation exposure in space and medical settings. Prof. Pinsky was an active member of the NA49 collaboration at CERN from 1999 until its conclusion in 2005. During this time, he was an author of 48 collaboration papers. In 2008, he became one of the founding members of the ongoing ALICE collaboration at the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), leading one of only seven US groups in ALICE at that time. Since then, he has been an author on 476 ALICE publications. During his time in ALICE, he was also a member of the Daya Bay neutrino oscillation collaboration, where he co-authored 26 highly relevant neutrino papers and received the 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. In total, Prof. Pinsky has co-authored more than 500 peer-reviewed journal publications, which have been cited almost 90,000 times in the past 25 years. Twelve of his papers have been cited more than 1,000 times. His h-index of 145 and his citation count of 89,698 make him the 6th highest cited researcher at UH. He has received multiple international awards for his research, most notably including the Breakthrough Prize mentioned above and full membership in the International Academy of Astronautics in 2017. His research group has been well funded throughout his career by grants from the DOE and NASA. Prof. Pinsky has also been instrumental in connecting researchers at UH to those at NASA and the Texas Medical Center.

Prof. Pinsky has been an outstanding teacher and mentor throughout his career at UH. In Physics, he has supervised twelve PhD students and taught various courses from introductory freshmen level to graduate level. His teaching excellence has been recognized with multiple awards, including a UH Outstanding Educator Award in 1990, a UH Enron Teaching Award in 1994, and the NSM Teaching Excellence Award in 1994.

In the Department of Physics prior to being Department Chair, he served on the Executive Committee for ten years, the Personnel Committee for eight years, and the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) for fifteen years. He chaired the USC for six years and served on the NSM College Government Committee for ten. He chaired the UH Radiation Safety for fifteen years and the UH Intellectual Property Committee for two years.

### **Professor Arthur Conklin (College of Engineering)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Engineering** support the nomination of Arthur Conklin for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

In his nearly twenty-year career at the University of Houston, Dr. Conklin founded the MS in Cybersecurity program, developed and taught 20 different courses, and is the Founding Director of the Center for Information Security Research and Education. At the University of Houston, Dr. Conklin's scholarly contributions and engagement with federal and state initiatives pertaining to his focus (cybersecurity) underscores a career dedicated to excellence and innovation.

Professor Conklin's academic journey is notable, having earned a Ph.D. in Business Administration with a focus on Information Systems from The University of Texas at San Antonio, a Master of Business Administration (Information Systems), a terminal degree in Electrical Engineering (Space Systems Engineering) from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Washington University in St. Louis. His transition from a Naval Officer to a pivotal figure in industry, and ultimately, to an academic stalwart since Fall 2006 at the University of Houston, underscores a career dedicated to excellence and innovation.

Professor Conklin's role as the Founding Director of the Center for Information Security Research and Education has been instrumental in advancing research and education in cybersecurity. His dedication to teaching is evident in his development and instruction of 20 different courses, mentoring students to success in national competitions, and securing significant grant funding exceeding \$6.5 million from prestigious bodies such as the NSA, NSF, and the US Department of Energy.

Moreover, his scholarly contributions, including six published books on cybersecurity, and his active engagement with federal and state cybersecurity initiatives, reflect his commitment to the advancement of cybersecurity knowledge and practices. Awards such as the EnergySec Cybersecurity Professional of the Year 2019, the Ernie Rakaczky ICS Security Lifetime Achievement Award 2017, and his induction into the Cyber Texas Hall of Honor 2018, among others, are testaments to his impact and dedication to the field.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, his unwavering commitment to excellence in education, research, and leadership, and his significant impact on the field of cybersecurity, I wholeheartedly support the designation of Professor Arthur Conklin as an Emeritus Professor. His legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations of scholars and practitioners in the field of information systems technology and cybersecurity.

**Professor Betsy Weber (Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts** support the nomination of Betsy Weber for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Betsy Cook Weber began her career with the University of Houston three decades ago in a part-time adjunct appointment. It is in keeping with her reputation for excellence to note her tremendous career growth over the intervening years, culminating in her current position as the Madison Endowed Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Houston Moores School of Music. In that time, she has led our choral area to unprecedented heights, with a recent top-ten national ranking as well as international prizes at prestigious competitions in Wales, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, and the Netherlands.

In addition to her work at Moores School of Music, Dr. Weber is also active internationally as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer. She has conducted all-state, honor, and festival choirs throughout the United States and serves as editor of the Betsy Cook Weber Choral Series with Alliance Music Publishing. In the summer of 2013, Weber became the thirteenth person and first woman to receive the Texas Choral Directors Association's coveted Texas Choirmaster Award. Dr. Weber served for eight seasons as Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus, and was named Director Emeritus in 2022. She has also prepared singers for early music orchestras Ars Lyrica and Mercury. In the 2024-25 season, Weber will serve as Guest Conductor of the Grammy-winning Houston Chamber Choir and will become Artistic Director of this historic ensemble during the 2025-26 season.

As a teacher, Dr. Weber is beloved in our community. While holding standards impeccably high, she has brought the level of the UH choral program to a national and international reputation. Her Doctoral Conductors have all landed in four-year Universities, and her students seem eager to praise and seek counsel from their beloved Professor Weber.

As a researcher, Dr. Weber is one of the strongest voices in Choral Music in America. Unlike many professors whose influence and output can slow in the years leading up to retirement, Dr. Weber is keeping the pace of a newly appointed Assistant Professor. This past February, I witnessed over 2000 people cram into an auditorium at the Texas Music Educators Association in San Antonio to hear Dr. Weber present her work on building healthy habits in choral programs." This summer, she will lead a study abroad trip with an elite group of choral students to Vienna, Austria, where they will appear in the select *Ave Verum* International Choral Competition. For over thirty years, Dr. Weber has performed consistently at the highest levels and contributed to the overall field by leading the future of choral music education in Texas and beyond.

She is a leader among leaders and a tremendously supportive and caring colleague. Her energy and drive have not waned in advance of her retirement from UH, and as Professor Emeritus, she will continue as she started: committed to excellence and helping ensure the Moores School of Music continues its ascendancy.

### **Associate Professor Michael Johnson (College of Pharmacy)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Pharmacy** support the nomination of Michael Johnson for Associate Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Johnson joined University of Houston College of Pharmacy (UHCOP) in 2006 after serving as assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine's Section of Health Services Research. During his tenure, Dr. Johnson also served as vice chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy from its creation in 2018 to 2022 and director of graduate studies from 2010 to 2014. During his tenure at UHCOP, he has served as a primary mentor to 12 doctoral students and 12 master's students, as well as a secondary mentor to over 40 other doctoral and master's level students. He also served as coordinator and/or lecturer for several courses in the graduate and professional program curricula.

As the sole biostatistician in the college, Dr. Johnson's expertise was highly sought by colleagues and mentees on a variety of pharmaceutical health outcomes research projects within the fields ranging from oncology and cardiology to psychiatry and public health. In his research pursuits, he served as principal or co-investigator on dozens of research grants funded by such organizations as the National Institute of Health and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as several companies in the pharmaceutical industry. He has authored or co-authored nearly 200 research articles with an H-Index of 34. He also has authored or contributed to more than 150 abstracts presented at annual international or national meetings. He also served on numerous national committees. In 2007, he was appointed chair of the Task Force on Good Research Practices for Retrospective Database Studies as part of a collaboration between the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy and the National Pharmaceutical Council. The task force's reports were published in ISPOR's Value Health publication, and he was honored for his leadership with the ISPOR Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

During his time at UH, Dr. Johnson served on a variety of committees, councils, and other administrative/advisory bodies at the college and university level, including UHCOP's Faculty Advisory Council, UH's Institutional Review Board, and UH's Graduate and Professional Studies Council. He also served on multiple review panels for ISPOR, NIH, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the American Heart Association. In addition, he played an instrumental role in the development of the college's Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy.

Dr. Michael Johnson retired as an associate professor from the UHCOP in December 2023 after nearly two decades of exceptional teaching, mentoring graduate students, and conducting health outcomes research. Therefore, his contributions to the college and university deserve recognition as an Emeritus Professor at the UHCOP.

### **Professor Lynn Maher (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences** support the nomination of Lynn Maher for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Dr. Maher has been on the faculty of the University of Houston since 2006. Her contributions and influence on the discipline, department, and university are substantial. Dr. Maher published dozens of articles and chapters, and she was awarded a dozen different grants from federal (NIH) and foundation (United Way) sources. She is a globally recognized expert in research and treatment of aphasia, an acquired language disorder that is common after stroke.

Dr. Maher served as Department Chair of Communication Sciences and Disorders for 12 years (2006-2018), and she was transformative in that role, overseeing growth of their degree programs, launching of their PhD program, hiring of strong faculty scholars, expansion of their funded research endeavors, and acquisition of sorely needed new space for the unit and its clinic, the University Speech-Language Hearing Clinic. All of this was accomplished with a department that nearly had been shuttered by the university (saved by a Board of Regents vote) in the year before hiring her as Chair.

Dr. Maher worked tirelessly to fight for new and better space for COMD and our University Speech-Language Hearing Clinic and for a PhD program, both of which came to fruition after she stepped down. In 2023 our first doctoral candidate was awarded an F31 doctoral training grant on her first submission; she was mentored by faculty hired by Dr. Maher. Our successes today in research funding, community engagement, and increased respect and prominence both locally and nationally, began under Dr. Maher's leadership.

Dr. Maher won a university Provost Excellence Award in 2014, repeat awards from the Department of Veteran Affairs and professional associations. Dr. Maher was named a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2013. Dr. Maher has also served in many leadership roles at the university, including with Faculty Senate, the Internal Advisory Committee for College of Medicine (the original planning committee), and numerous other workgroups and committees. She co-founded the Houston Aphasia Recovery Center.

In recognition of 18 years at UH and a 40-year career of outstanding research, teaching and service, I strongly support granting Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Lynn Maher, to acknowledge her accomplishments and contributions and honor the legacy she will leave at the University of Houston.

### **Associate Professor Brian Knoll (College of Pharmacy)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Pharmacy** support the nomination of Brian Knoll for Associate Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

After 23 years of teaching, research and service, Brian J. Knoll, Ph.D., retired Dec. 31, 2023 from the UH College of Pharmacy. Knoll earned a PhD in Molecular Biology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 1979 and did postdoctoral work in Cell Biology at Baylor College of Medicine. Knoll then held faculty and research positions at Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston (UTHealth), and the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

He moved to UH in 2000 as Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the Dept. of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences, and for a time held an appointment in the Dept of Biology, NSM. Knoll served as the UHCOP's Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs since 2014 and Director of Graduate Education for the prior eight years in the Dept. of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences. In total, Knoll's teaching and research career among the institutions spanned 45 years.

Knoll's primary research focus at UH was in the development of new therapeutics designed to reduce airway inflammation by modifying beta 2-adrenergic receptor ( $\beta$ 2AR) signaling in airway epithelium. Prior to his tenure at UH he studied gene transcription control in cancer. Over his career, he served as principal investigator or co-investigator on research grant projects totaling more than \$5.7 million from the National Institutes of Health, the American Cancer Society, and the American Heart Association.

He authored or coauthored 59 book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles in such publications as Proceedings of the National Academies of Science (PNAS), Nature, the European Journal of Pharmacology, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, PLOS One and the British Journal of Pharmacology. In addition to serving on the editorial boards of the latter two journals, Knoll served as a journal referee on dozens of publications.

Knoll also presented numerous abstracts at leading national and international scientific meetings, including Experimental Biology, the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, and the British Pharmacological Society. From rotations to chairing and co-chairing dissertation committees, Knoll was involved in the training development and progression of more than 50 undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, pulmonary fellows and junior faculty over the course of his career. These included awardees of NIH, SURF, PURS, SMART and AGEP fellowships, as well as a K08 recipient.

### **Professor James Garson (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences** support the nomination of James Garson for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor James (“Jim”) Garson is an outstanding candidate for emeritus status at the University of Houston, for which his colleagues in the philosophy department have unanimously and enthusiastically recommended him. He will fully retire this spring after serving the university for more than 40 years (he arrived in the fall of 1981 and went on VMOE in the fall of 2021). His contributions and influence on the discipline, department, and university are substantial. Dr. Garson published dozens of articles, two books, and two chapters in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. He was awarded 9 grants from federal (NEH and NSF) and foundation (Apple, Ford) sources. He also has served the community as a consultant to mental health agencies at all levels for decades and provided expertise as a consultant for many firms and cases.

Professor Garson is also an award-winning and legendarily conscientious teacher. The award in question is a university-wide teaching excellence award, which he won in 1988. Anyone over the decades who had an office near Jim’s in the philosophy department knew exactly why his teaching would draw favorable notice. Regardless of when his office hours officially were, if a puzzled logic student knocked on his office door the student would be welcomed, and the student’s puzzlement would be addressed with infinite patience and kindness.

Professor Garson also did much yeoman service over the decades for the department, the college, and the university. He was for three years department chair. For more than a decade thereafter he held the most demanding other service role in the department, director of graduate studies. So demanding, indeed, is that role, that when Jim stepped down we decided it needed to be split in two, so now we have both a director of graduate studies and a director of graduate admissions. Jim also served as co-director of an iteration (earlier than the current one) of a university-wide center for teaching excellence, and did a good deal of work over the decades on a variety of important college committees.

In recognition of 43 years of outstanding research, teaching and service, I strongly support granting Professor Emeritus status to Dr. James Garson, in acknowledgement of his accomplishments and contributions and in honor of the legacy he will leave at the University of Houston.

### **Professor Shafik Rifaat (Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design)**

It is with pleasure that the Dean and faculty of **Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design** support the nomination of Shafik Rifaat for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Shafik has been an educator, designer, and urban planning advocate who operated at the highest level to bring urban planning education to a wide audience. His extraordinary insight into the fundamentals of urban design education extended from academia to governmental entities, to bring much needed reform to schools as well as to the agencies he partners with.

Shafik has rarely stood in the limelight. Yet his generosity of spirit and assured guidance, far outshine the traditional rewards of authorship, and are reflected in the widespread adoption of the programs he has created. The graduate programs he initiated have gone through several iterations, but at each phase his mark remains indelible. Programs he has initiated in the classroom have impacted public and private projects in the city. This diversity of engagement is anything but superficial. Shafik is a hands-on, deeply committed professional, whose energy and organizational skills aided his accomplishments, and whose faith in urban planning's place in human affairs manifested itself in the classroom.

Shafik's public service and professional work have earned him the respect and willingness to collaborate from organizations in both the public and private sector. This network of associates allows him to infuse his seminars with notable experts from all segments of the architecture and urban planning components of the city. He served on the Houston Planning Commission for many years. His planning work extended to the creation of a new town for the Ministry of Planning and urbanization in Egypt and he has served as a consultant to the World Bank for community master planning on the Red Sea. He was invited by the Chinese government to lecture on urbanization at six major universities in China.

His impact on the organizations and institutions that support sustainable urbanism is consistent and effective, whether through mentoring his many students and presenting their work to international audiences, or in the creation of entities and lecture series which encourage the dissemination of expertise throughout the community. Programs that he has introduced have blossomed over the years. His study abroad program has spawned a Pan-American program and a Pan-Asia program sending students to Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Burma, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and China. His work laid the foundations for Memoranda of Understanding with TU Graz, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad de Desarrollo, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture, and the Beijing Institute of Technology.

### **Professor Allen Rubin (Graduate College of Social Work)**

It is with pleasure that the Interim Dean and faculty of **Graduate College of Social Work** support the nomination of Allen Rubin for Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston.

Professor Allen Rubin has served as the Jean Kantambu Latting Professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work from 2013 until his impending retirement in August of 2024. Professor Rubin earned his Ph.D. in Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh in 1976. After serving as the Bert Kruger Smith Professor of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin from 1979 to 2013, he joined the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work.

Professor Rubin has had a distinguished career as evidenced by his 100 refereed articles and book chapters and his authorship of 5 textbooks on research methods, evidence-based practice, statistics, and program evaluation. In addition, he has co-edited 6 books on topics including military social work, substance abuse, schizophrenia, depression, trauma, and child maltreatment.

During his distinguished career, Professor Rubin has received many awards and honors in recognition of his contributions to the discipline of social work. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work in 1983 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Work Education from the Council on Social Work Education in 2007. In 2010, he was recognized as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and in 2014, he was inducted as a fellow of the Society for Social Work and Research. Professor Rubin served as the President of the Society for Social Work and Research from 1998-2000 and on the Board of the Society for Social Work and Research from 2007-2010. Notably, Professor Rubin was listed among the 100 most influential contemporary social work faculty (Thyer, et al. (2019): The 100 Most Influential Contemporary Social Work Faculty as Assessed by the H-Index, *Journal of Social Service Research*, DOI: 10.1080/01488376.2018.1501793).

Professor Rubin has made significant contributions to the University of Houston through his distinguished record in social work scholarship and education. Professor Rubin is most deserving of recognition as "Professor Emeritus."

## **University of Houston-Clear Lake**

### **Grady Perdue, Ph.D.** **(College of Business)**

Dr. Grady Perdue joined the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) faculty in 1984. During his 40 years at UHCL, he has been an active participant in the forward progression of the university.

His research has focused on the areas of investment management and individual financial planning, resulting in the publication of numerous academic journal articles and textbooks. To further support his research activities, he earned the Certified Financial Planner certification, which is the standard of excellence in financial planning.

Dr. Perdue was selected as one of the university's first Fulbright Scholars in 1989, during which he taught monetary theory at the University of the South Pacific located in Fiji. He also was one of UHCL's earliest sponsors of international educational opportunities for students. For 18 years he organized study abroad programs that took students to meet with major businesses in Europe and Asia, allowing them to witness other cultures and business practices.

At UHCL, Dr. Perdue has served as the Faculty Senate President, and chaired the university's Educational Policies and Courses Committee in the shared governance system. At the college level, he has served as a department chair and as the chair of the college's curriculum committee. He was a recipient of the President's Distinguished Faculty Service Award in 2008.

Outside the university, Professor Perdue was the president of the Academy of Financial Services, an international association of finance professors researching personal finance. He also served as a member of the board of directors of the JSC Federal Credit Union, was a trustee of the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund, and was an investment advisor to the Houston Police Officers' Pension System.

**Sadegh Davari, Ph.D.**  
**(College of Science and Engineering)**

Dr. Sadegh Davari received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Oklahoma. While working toward his Ph.D., he was the Data Processing Director at Quadrangle Communications Corporation. Upon the completion of his doctorate, he served as a Teaching Fellow at the University of Oklahoma. In 1986, he joined the University of Houston-Clear Lake as an assistant professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems and was promoted to professor in 2004.

Since 1992, Dr. Davari has served in many leadership roles in the College of Science and Engineering. This includes serving as the Chair of the Computer Science Program, Chair of the Division of Computing and Mathematics, Interim Dean, and Chair of the Department of Computing Sciences.

Along with publishing over 40 articles in the areas of real-time systems and STEM education, Dr. Davari was instrumental in procuring external funding of over \$12 Million in support of STEM education.

Dr. Davari taught and developed several courses in Computer Science and Software Engineering at UHCL as well as at Hughes Corporation in Houston where he taught Introduction to ADA programming language and Advanced ADA.

In 1992, Dr. Davari was awarded the UHCL President's Distinguished Teaching Award, followed by the 2014 University Faculty Fellowship, and the 2017-2018 Distinguished Professorship in Computer Science and Engineering.

Dr. Davari is highly regarded among faculty across the university and most importantly, has always served as an advocate for students. He created the peer mentoring program, which was a major factor in prioritizing and improving student success at UHCL. He also worked with surrounding industry partners to create numerous joint research and development opportunities and student internships.

**W. Ronald Mills, Ph.D.**  
**(College of Science and Engineering)**

Dr. W. Ronald Mills joined UHCL as Assistant Professor of Biology in 1979, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1984 and Professor in 1991. He received his Ph.D. from Miami University in 1977. Before UHCL, he was a NATO Postdoctoral Fellow at Rothamsted Research in England and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Carleton University in Canada. In 1986 he was Bye-Fellow of Robinson College and Visiting Scientist at Cambridge University in England and from 2007-16 he was a Visiting Professor at the Children's Nutrition Research Center within the Baylor College of Medicine.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mills developed and taught over 20 courses in Biological Sciences, Biotechnology and Chemistry. He was a dedicated teacher and was recognized as the UHCL Piper Nominee in 1983 and as the recipient of the UHCL Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1984.

Dr. Mills' research on essential amino acid and chloroplast DNA synthesis in plants led to 72 publications and presentations, many co-authored with UHCL students. He was PI on the first NSF Research Grant and Welch Foundation Chemistry Department Research Grant awarded to UHCL with his total external funding being nearly \$2 million. In 1990, he was the recipient of the UHCL President's Distinguished Research Award.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mills held leadership roles that profoundly influenced UHCL, ranging from the content of the curriculum to the governance structure. He was Chair of the Division of Natural Science and the Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences for a total of nearly 10 years. He also served the UH System on the UFE Council and Strategic Planning Committee, UHCL's Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and as Faculty Senate President.

## **University of Houston-Downtown**

### **Professor Janusz Grebowicz (College of Science and Technology)**

The University of Houston-Downtown, the College of Science and Technology, and the Department of Natural Sciences are honored to nominate Dr. Janusz Grebowicz, Professor of Physics, for Emeritus status. Janusz has been a member of the Natural Sciences department since 2004, and during those 20 years, he has made significant and impactful contributions to the department, the college, and their students.

Dr. Grebowicz earned a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the Polish Academy of Sciences and had post-doctoral appointments at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Max Planck Institute, and the University of Massachusetts. Before coming to UHD, Dr. Grebowicz had a long and distinguished career as a research scientist and the Head of The Thermal Analysis Lab at Shell Chemicals. As a professor at UHD, Janusz taught all of the introductory physics courses and developed an upper-level course in thermal analysis that was popular with students across all scientific disciplines as well as those in engineering. In cooperation with Texas A&M University, Janusz helped establish a Nuclear Power Institute Certificate program at UHD, which resulted in the addition of five new courses available to students interested in a physics minor.

Dr. Grebowicz's service extended beyond UHD as he initiated and championed international exchanges between science students at UHD and universities in Poland, Germany, and Sweden. The program is his legacy and continues to this day.

Perhaps Dr. Grebowicz's largest contribution to UHD and his field is his research. Through instruments inherited during his time at Shell Chemicals and through funding from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, Dr. Grebowicz developed a world-renowned research lab and collaborated internationally with scientists from Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic as well as domestically with scientists from the University of Houston, Rutgers University, and several more. He has over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, including some with UHD students who worked in his lab. Among other awards, in 2014 he was a Fulbright Scholar and worked at the University of Science and Technology in Poland.

Through his teaching, service, and scholarship, Dr. Grebowicz has made important contributions to the University of Houston-Downtown, his field, and internationally. Dr. Grebowicz is worthy of consideration for the status of Professor Emeritus.

**Professor Johanna Schmertz**  
**(College of Humanities and Social Sciences)**

The University of Houston-Downtown, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of English are thrilled to nominate Dr. Johanna Schmertz for the honorary rank of Professor Emerita. After earning a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University at Commerce, Dr. Schmertz joined UHD's faculty in 2000, earning the rank of Associate Professor in 2006 and the rank of Full Professor in 2018. She has made significant contributions to UHD student learning, the Department of English, UHD, and the fields of film studies and composition studies.

Dr. Schmertz has been both dedicated and innovative in her teaching. Listening to the needs of her students, Dr. Schmertz was one of the pioneers of the online teaching movement at UHD. She taught all levels of curriculum from freshman writing to upper-level courses such as *Advanced Gender Studies*. Her work with and support of students on their writing skills and confidence is evidenced by their consistent participation in the annual Gender Studies Conference. Her students always found her prompt with feedback. Her courses were engaging; yet challenging, and above all else, Dr. Schmertz was always a source of encouragement for her students.

Dr. Schmertz contributed to UHD with her service and scholarship, as well. Her scholarship in Film Studies has resulted in over 15 publications and 30 scholarly presentations. She has eight peer-reviewed essays in major journals in English and books published by leading university presses. She is continuing her scholarship and currently has a forthcoming publication and two in progress. In service, Dr. Schmertz played an instrumental role in her department through her service on important committees such as the English Curriculum Committee, the Composition Committee, the Graduate Committee, and the Student Award Committee. With her dedication to students, commitment to her department, and expertise, Dr. Schmertz's service made a huge impact.

In consideration of her achievements in scholarship, teaching, and service, the University of Houston-Downtown wholeheartedly supports the granting of Emeritus status to Dr. Johanna Schmertz.

**Dr. Michelle Moosally**  
**(College of Humanities and Social Sciences)**

Nominated by her peers, with enthusiastic endorsement from the Department of English, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the University of Houston-Downtown, it is our pleasure to nominate Dr. Michelle Moosally for Associate Professor Emeritus status. Dr. Moosally began her career as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English in 1998 and achieved the rank of Associate Professor in 2004. She served as the Department Chair for the Department of English from 2014-2018 and was appointed to serve as the Associate Vice President of Programming and Curriculum in 2020. Throughout her UHD career, Dr. Moosally has been a campus leader taking on important service and administrative roles and always championing students and faculty.

Dr. Moosally was among the few English faculty who taught across all degree programs in the department and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses. She was a valued teacher with a colleague writing, “Her courses are thorough, rigorous, well-developed, and responsive to student’s needs, with thoughtfully designed assignments and materials to make the complex content of her linguistics courses meaningful, accessible, and even fun for students.” In addition, her focus on developing strong writing skills in her undergraduate and graduate students was recognized and applauded.

Advocating for student success and supporting faculty were key elements of Dr. Moosally’s scholarship. Notably, she co-authored a recent publication “Empowering Faculty to Build Meaningful Curricula to Enhance Student Success,” which appeared in the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*. In 2019, with UHD colleagues, Dr. Moosally co-authored a special issue of *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* which won the Council on College Composition and Communication’s prestigious “Best Collection in Original Essays in Scientific and Technical Communication” award. She has also presented numerous papers on linguistics, faculty issues, and shared governance at national conferences.

Dr. Moosally’s commitment to service sets a high standard for UHD faculty. To say that Dr. Moosally has impacted every aspect of UHD’s academic and faculty affairs is an understatement. Listing the entirety of her service to the institution would be a monumental task. Dr. Moosally has not only engaged in committee, task force, and other service work as a member but often as a leader. Her leadership and support of UHD’s Faculty Senate and other shared governance committees include serving as the chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee (twice), the General Education Committee, the University Curriculum Committee, the Retention and Graduation Committee, and the President of Faculty Senate. In these leadership roles, she always remained dedicated to shared governance, supportive of faculty, and a champion of following policies and processes. As Department Chair for the Department of English, she created bylaws and a handbook to systematize departmental processes. As the Associate Vice President for Programming and Curriculum, Dr. Moosally took on many important projects including the transition of the institution to Canvas, the creation of new programs, and

supporting UHD's distance learning sites. No matter the project, Dr. Moosally always advocated for faculty to be central to the process.

Dr. Moosally's twenty-six years of service to UHD have left a lasting legacy. With her numerous achievements in teaching and scholarship and her outstanding service and leadership record, we enthusiastically nominate Dr. Moosally for this wonderful honor.

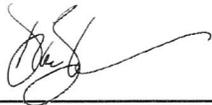
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success  
**ITEM:** Approval of New Academic Program(s) – University of Houston System  
**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

- Bachelor of Arts in Translation at the University of Houston-Downtown
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity at the University of Houston-Downtown

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Excel Spreadsheet  
**FISCAL NOTE:** None  
**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item  
**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

04/29/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

05/08/24

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

University of Houston System  
 Summary of New Academic Programs  
 Academic, Research and Student Success Committee  
 Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Component	Program	Proposed Implementation Date	Purpose	Comments
UHD	Bachelor of Arts in Translation	Fall 2024	<p>The University of Houston-Downtown requests approval to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Translation. The proposed degree is designed to provide students with theoretical concepts and practical experience to successfully use linguistic competencies, technological tools, writing and reading skills, and intercultural knowledge to successfully prepare language translations in the medical and legal professions, as well as other related fields, such as writing/editing and interpreting. Almost 100 students have enrolled in Translation and Interpreting minors at UHD since its inception in 2014 and has a current enrollment of almost 40 students. Students enrolled in the Translation and Interpreting minor program, as well as Spanish majors, regularly complete their 120 field-experience hours at sites such as the University of Houston Law Center's Immigration Clinic, the Modi Law Firm, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Nueva Casa de Amigos (WIC), Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Culture of Health Advancing Together (CHAT), Pasadena ISD, Channelview ISD, Neff Early Learning Center, among many others. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that Texas is among the top employer of translators with an average salary of \$55,000. UT-Arlington and UT-Rio Grande Valley both offer undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Translation and Interpretation. Our Lady of the Lake, in San Antonio, offers a Translation and Interpretation concentration within their B.A. in Spanish program. The program expects to generate revenue in its fourth year of operation.</p>	Offered face to face at the University of Houston-Downtown
UHD	Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity	Fall 2024	<p>The University of Houston-Downtown requests approval to establish a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity. The proposed degree is designed for students with a high school diploma, as well as for community college graduates, who have focused on related disciplines of study, including, but not limited to: computer science, computer engineering, computer information systems, data science, math, and management information systems. The degree program will consist of 120 semester credit hours of coursework that will meet the requirements of the Association for Computing Machinery's Cybersecurity Curricula as well as the accreditation requirements of the Associated Board for Engineering and Technology. The 2021 (ISC)2 Cybersecurity Workforce Study shows that global demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to outpace supply, with organizations needing almost three million additional cybersecurity professionals worldwide to adequately defend critical assets. Cybersecurity bachelor programs are currently offered by Sam Houston State University and Houston Baptist University. However, these programs are unable to produce the number of graduates needed to fill the regional workforce gap. UH and UH-Downtown both offer graduate programs in cybersecurity, so this proposed bachelor's degree is envisioned to be a complementary component to existing UHS degree programs. The program expects to generate revenue in its second year of operation.</p>	Offered face to face at the University of Houston-Downtown

**PRO FORMA FOR PPR-UHD-BA Translation**

				Operating Years					
FY2025				Year 0	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
					Fall24	Fall25	Fall26	Fall27	Fall28
<b>Enrollments</b>									
Cohort 1					10	8	6	4	
Cohort 2						20	18	16	14
Cohort 3							25	23	21
Cohort 4								25	23
Cohort 5									25
Cohort 6									
Total					10	28	49	68	83
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>									
	Salary	% effort		Year 0	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Romero	71,547	64%			30,663	30,663	30,663	30,663	30,663
Nowak	72,113	43%			20,604	20,604	20,604	20,604	20,604
de Jesus-Rivera	49,479	21%			7,068	7,068	7,068	7,068	7,068
Mandell	71,148	21%			10,164	10,164	10,164	10,164	10,164
Agboka	91,575	21%			13,082	13,082	13,082	13,082	13,082
Bjork	67,617	21%			9,660	9,660	9,660	9,660	9,660
Archiopoli	71,615	27%			10,231	10,231	10,231	10,231	10,231
Adjuncts (1)	3,200	100%		-	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Subtotal	498,294	320%		-	104,672	104,672	104,672	104,672	104,672
<b>Faculty FTE</b>					2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>									
Faculty Director Releases (1 fall, 2spring)	8,000	100%			8,000	8,000	8,160	8,160	8,323
Position 2					-	-	-	-	-
Position 3					-	-	-	-	-
Position 4					-	-	-	-	-
Position 5					-	-	-	-	-
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Graduate Students					-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	8,000	100%		-	8,000	8,000	8,160	8,160	8,323
<b>Staff FTE</b>					0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Total Salaries				-	112,672	112,672	112,832	112,832	112,995
Benefits @ 20.5%				-	23,098	23,098	23,130	23,130	23,164
Total Personnel				-	135,769	135,769	135,962	135,962	136,159
<b>Non-Personnel</b>									
Marketing/Recruiting					10,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	2,000
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships						-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Annual maintenance & operations					5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,000
Library and Information Technology					4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Accreditation					2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Facilities						-	-	-	-
Laboratory and other equipment					3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other					-	3,000	3,000	1,000	1,000
Total Non-Personnel				-	27,000	22,000	22,000	20,000	16,000
Allocated to university operations	30%				20,325	57,565	100,248	140,857	171,345
Total Annual Expense				\$ -	\$ 183,095	\$ 215,334	\$ 258,210	\$ 296,820	\$ 323,504
<b>Revenue</b>									
Formula Funding Generated					-	14,179	14,179	79,404	79,404
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula					-	(12,000)	(12,000)	(67,200)	(67,200)
Subtotal: State General Revenue					-	2,179	2,179	12,204	12,204
UH Tuition and Fees					74,625	208,950	365,663	503,719	615,656
Allocated to set aside per student					(6,874)	(19,247)	(33,681)	(46,398)	(56,708)
Total Revenue from Enrollment					67,751	191,883	334,160	469,524	571,151
Philanthropy and other External Revenue					-	-	-	-	-
Net Revenue					67,751	191,883	334,160	469,524	571,151
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (115,344)	\$ (23,451)	\$ 75,950	\$ 172,705	\$ 247,647
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (115,344)	\$ (138,795)	\$ (62,845)	\$ 109,860	\$ 357,507

Campus Signoff \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniel Chang, Program Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vivianne Do, Executive Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Executive Summary for UHS Board of Regents

**Program Name: B.A. in Translation**

**Date: April 3, 2024**

### Congruence with System Goals and University Mission

The proposed *B.A. in Translation* overlaps with all three UHS goals. The program will enhance the national reputation of the system through the delivery of state-of-the-art education in translation, a unique and much needed program in a city the size of Houston. Furthermore, the degree plan capitalizes on the bilingual and cultural skills that students often bring with them to UHD. Last, the manifest economic and social need for translators in the Houston metropolitan area indicates that this program will have a positive impact on the region.

The *B.A. in Translation* will empower students with the necessary linguistic and critical thinking skills, tools, and knowledge to address issues of language access among Houston's Spanish speaking population, especially in the areas of law and medicine. In this way, the program is aligned with UHD's mission and strategic goal of *enhancing student success, nurturing student talent, and driving socio-economic development*. Further, the proposed program will help UHD achieve its vision to be a major contributor to the *social, intellectual, and cultural life of Houston*.

### Program Description

The proposed *B.A. in Translation* will provide students with sufficient theoretical concepts and required practical experience to successfully use their linguistic competencies, technological tools, writing and reading skills, and intercultural knowledge to successfully prepare language translations in the medical and legal professions, as well as related fields, such as writing/editing and interpreting. The program provides a foundation in translation techniques, vocabulary strategies, and hands-on training.

The program focuses on the translation of English documents into the Spanish language. Given Houston's current and projected Spanish-speaking population growth, this degree plan focuses upon language access. This emphasis makes our B.A. program unique: typically, translation programs impart generalist skills required for translating documents from *any* language into English. Our program proposal is also distinctive in that it shifts the typical emphasis on literary or business translation toward medical and legal translation. Thus, the proposed *B.A. in Translation* is customized to UHD's proximity to the Houston's major legal and medical centers.

The program will require 120 hours of college credit, comprised of: 42 SCHs of Core Curriculum, 21 SCHs of Upper-Level Spanish (SPAN) courses, 27 SCHs of supplemental content/clusters of prescribed electives (6 SCHs of Technical Communication, 6 SCHs of Communications, 6 SCHs of English/Linguistics, and 9 SCHs of "subject content" on several legal or medical topics), and 30 SCHs of free electives.

## Student and Job Market Demand

Student demand can be appreciated in the number of *Translation and Interpreting* minors at UHD, a total of 93 since its inception in 2014, plus an additional 37 who are currently enrolled. Translation courses within the Spanish program--such as Translation, Legal Spanish, and Medical Spanish—have never suffered from lack of student interest. Further, since 2014, the closely related workshops on medical and court interpreting (noncredit) offered through continuing studies have trained at least fifty bilingual professionals per year. Houston’s prospective-student population is interested in this degree and related fields.

Thanks to community partnerships, our students enrolled in the *Translation and Interpreting* minor program, as well as our Spanish majors, regularly complete their 120 field-experience hours at sites such as the *University of Houston Law Center’s Immigration Clinic*, the *Modi Law Firm*, *Harris County Juvenile Probation Department*, *Nueva Casa de Amigos (WIC)*, *Houston Metropolitan Research Center*, *Culture of Health Advancing Together (CHAT)*, *Pasadena ISD*, *Channelview ISD*, *Neff Early Learning Center*, among many others. This broad list of partners illustrates the flexibility of a career in translation.

## Program Duplication

The proposed *B.A. in Translation* program does not duplicate any bachelor’s degrees offered within the UHS. UT-Arlington and UT-RGV both offer B.A. degrees in *Spanish and Translation and Interpretation*. Our Lady of the Lake, in San Antonio, offers a *Translation and Interpretation* concentration within their *B.A. in Spanish* degree plan.

## Faculty Resources

This program is interdisciplinary and built upon existing UHD faculty, housed in the *College of Humanities and Social Sciences*. The core members, however, are from the *Spanish Language* faculty and include four PhDs with degrees (PhDs and master’s degrees) in *Linguistics*, *Spanish Literature and Romance Languages*, and *Translation*. Supplementing this team are three *Communication/Technical Communication* PhD holders with degrees in *English* as well as *Cultural & Health Communication*.

## State or National Need

Market demand for translation skills is impressive: the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports that Texas is among the top employer of translators and that their salaries are, on average \$55,000. Further, the Houston economy--from Sugar Land to the Woodlands--holds (among the metropolitan areas with the highest number of interpreters) the highest concentration of translation/interpretation jobs, with a Location Quotient of 2.22 (the Average Salary for our metropolitan market is 49,750).

**PRO FORMA FOR PPR-UHD-BS Cybersecurity**

		Operating Years							
FY2025		Year 0	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029		
			Fall24	Fall25	Fall26	Fall27	Fall28		
<b>Enrollments</b>									
Cohort 1			21	19	18	17			
Cohort 2				25	23	21	19		
Cohort 3					40	36	34		
Cohort 4						45	41		
Cohort 5							45		
Cohort 6									
Total			21	44	81	119	139		
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>		Salary	% effort	Year 0	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dr. Yuan		117,000	63%		33,429	66,857	66,857	100,286	100,286
Dr. Yilmaz		89,000	89%		50,857	50,857	63,571	63,571	63,571
New Faculty 1		88,000	90%		-	-	62,857	88,000	88,000
Position 4					-	-	-	-	-
Position 5					-	-	-	-	-
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Adjuncts		3,200	100%	-	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Subtotal		297,200	342%	-	87,486	120,914	196,486	255,057	255,057
<b>Faculty FTE</b>					2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>									
Faculty Director Releases (1 fall, 2spring)		6,400	100%		6,400	6,400	6,528	6,528	6,659
Position 2					-	-	-	-	-
Position 3					-	-	-	-	-
Position 4					-	-	-	-	-
Position 5					-	-	-	-	-
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Graduate Students					-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal		6,400	100%	-	6,400	6,400	6,528	6,528	6,659
<b>Staff FTE</b>					0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Total Salaries				-	93,886	127,314	203,014	261,585	261,716
Benefits @ 20.5%				-	19,247	26,099	41,618	53,625	53,652
Total Personnel				-	113,132	153,414	244,632	315,210	315,367
<b>Non-Personnel</b>									
Marketing/Recruiting					10,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	2,000
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships						-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Annual maintenance & operations					5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,000
Library and Information Technology					4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Accreditation					2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Facilities						-	-	-	-
Laboratory and other equipment					3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other					-	3,000	3,000	1,000	1,000
Total Non-Personnel				-	27,000	22,000	22,000	20,000	16,000
Allocated to university operations	30%				43,005	94,515	170,285	263,013	302,946
Total Annual Expense				\$ -	\$ 183,137	\$ 269,929	\$ 436,916	\$ 598,223	\$ 634,313
<b>Revenue</b>									
Formula Funding Generated					-	39,900	39,900	174,801	174,801
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula					-	(25,200)	(25,200)	(110,400)	(110,400)
Subtotal: State General Revenue					-	14,700	14,700	64,401	64,401
UH Tuition and Fees					157,973	330,990	609,323	895,178	1,041,866
Allocated to set aside per student					(14,624)	(30,641)	(56,406)	(82,869)	(96,448)
Total Revenue from Enrollment					143,349	315,050	567,616	876,710	1,009,819
Philanthropy and other External Revenue					-	-	-	-	-
Net Revenue					143,349	315,050	567,616	876,710	1,009,819
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (39,788)	\$ 45,121	\$ 130,700	\$ 278,487	\$ 375,506
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (39,788)	\$ 5,333	\$ 136,033	\$ 414,520	\$ 790,026

Campus Signoff \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniel Chang, Program Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vivianne Do, Executive Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Executive Summary for UHS Board of Regents

**Program Name: B.S. in Cybersecurity**

**Date: April 3, 2024**

### Congruence with System Goals and University Mission

The proposed *B.S. in Cybersecurity* aligns with the UHS goal of centering *student success* by offering an in-demand program that delivers marketable, technology-oriented skills. It is anticipated that this program will help UHD stand above its national peers and, in doing so, assist in meeting the UHS *National Competitiveness* goal. Last, this proposed program is expected to *advance both region and state*, by contributing to the supply of a skilled workforce.

The *B.S. in Cybersecurity*'s focus on developing marketable skills is squarely situated within UHD's mission of driving *socioeconomic mobility* among our students and their families. Further, we anticipate that this program's focus will assist in meeting UHD's mission to build a diversified, resilient, and *sustainable economic future* for the region.

### Program Description

The proposed *B.S. in Cybersecurity* program is designed for students with a high school diploma as well as for community college graduates, who hold an interest in computer science, computer engineering, computer information systems, data science, math, and management information systems. The degree program will consist of 120 semester credit hours (SCHs) of coursework that will meet the requirements of the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) Cybersecurity Curricula as well as the accreditation requirements of the Associated Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). All students will complete the Texas Common Core Curriculum and additional courses in Math and Statistics. Once finished with this academic foundation, students will complete major requirements, cybersecurity prescribed electives, and free-electives. The cybersecurity program will share common courses with the existing Computer Science program, thus maximizing existing teaching resources. Topics include computer security, network security, computer network architecture, operating systems, and cryptography.

### Student and Job Market Demand

The ACM emphasizes that by "all accounts, the world faces a current and growing workforce shortage of qualified cybersecurity professionals and practitioners." The *2021 (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Cybersecurity Workforce Study* shows that global demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to outpace supply. Organizations need 2.72 million additional cybersecurity professionals, worldwide, to adequately defend critical assets. The workforce demand is acute, immediate, and growing.

UHD's long-semester enrollment in existing cybersecurity courses has grown from a headcount of 68 (2019) to 147 (2023). Thus, the proposed degree program capitalizes on the existing and

robust student demand.

### Program Duplication

Although cybersecurity bachelor programs are offered by Sam Houston State University and Houston Baptist University, these programs cannot, alone, fill the regional workforce gap. Further, none of the UHS universities offer a *B.S. in Cybersecurity*. Note that UH and UHD both offer *graduate* programs in cybersecurity, so this proposed bachelor's degree is complementary to existing UHS programming: the new undergraduate major will enhance the Houston pool of prospective students who are prepared for advanced studies.

### Faculty Resources

This program is situated in UHD's *Computer Science and Engineering Technology Department*. In addition to the Computer Science instructional faculty, who are responsible for teaching prescribed elective courses, the core cybersecurity instructional faculty include two full-time T/TT faculty as well as adjunct support. It is anticipated that there will be an opportunity to hire an additional, dedicated assistant professor in the Fall of 2026.

### State or National Need

The faculty designed this program to meet the needs of students seeking employment in the growing computer industry, as well as those planning to pursue graduate studies in computing fields. UHD's commitment to its status as both a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) will ensure it is a Houston-focused program, geared to the development of local talent and improving representation of under-served populations in these key fields.

At the local level, according to the Texas Workforce Commission, employment of Information Security Analysts is projected to grow by 39 percent during the 2020s and the salary of an information security analysts in the Gulf Coast area is \$64,634, for entry level, and \$124,246, for experienced level. Texas, and Houston in particular, is among the hottest markets for cybersecurity workers.

The United States Department of Labor forecasts that the employment in cybersecurity will increase by 35 percent from 2021-2031, much faster than the average growth rate for all occupations which is only 5 percent. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, cybersecurity jobs rank first in "Best Jobs," "Best Technology Jobs" and best "STEM Jobs." *Forbes* reports that every "year in the United States, 40,000 jobs for information security analysts go unfilled."

Houston's economy consists of a diverse and vibrant spectrum of industries and businesses, spanning from energy and medical to financial services, all of which also have a critical shortage of qualified cybersecurity workers. The proposed program will address this shortage and serve the UHS goal to be an "engine of social and economic advancement of the metropolitan region and the state."

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Approval to delegate authority to the Chancellor to modify Test Optional Admissions standards for the campuses within the University of Houston System.

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:** August 20, 2020; May 20, 2021, May 2022, May 2023

**SUMMARY:**

Approval is requested to delegate authority to the Chancellor to modify test optional undergraduate and graduate admissions standards for the campuses within the University of Houston System. These changes will be limited to offering test optional criteria in lieu of SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT scores as necessary to remain in line with other Texas and U.S. institutions and explore the possibility of a longer-term decision.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** None

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED:** Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR** Diane Z. Chase

04/29/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR** Renu Khator

05/08/24

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**



# Test Optional Admissions



## **Approval Requested for Test Optional Policy Extensions**

University of Houston

## **Approval Requested for Permanent Test Optional Policy**

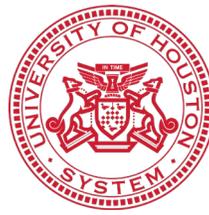
University of Houston-Downtown



## **Permanent Test Optional Policy Approved by the Board of Regents in May 18, 2023**

University of Houston-Clear Lake

University of Houston-Victoria



## Impact of Test Optional Admissions

- Current extension approved by the Board of Regents ends in Fall 2024.
- UHS institutions will remain competitive in the Texas and National admissions markets.
- UHS institutions will continue to attract a broad range of academically talented applicants.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success  
**ITEM:** Presentation on Mental Health - University of Houston

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Update on Mental Health initiatives by Dr. Paul Kittle, Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** None  
**FISCAL NOTE:** None  
**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Information  
**COMPONENT:** University of Houston

	<u>05/08/24</u>
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Renu Khator	<b>DATE</b>
	
<b>SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR</b> Diane Z. Chase	<u>04/29/2024</u> <b>DATE</b>
	
<b>CHANCELLOR</b> Renu Khator	<u>05/08/24</u> <b>DATE</b>

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success  
**ITEM:** Research Highlights - University of Houston System  
**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Dr. Claudia Neuhauser, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, will provide an update on the Division of Research, including awards over \$1M received recently for projects in the fields of health and earth sciences, young investigator awards, and elections to prestigious societies.

The Division of Research will provide two (2) additional presentations:

Presentation by Ashe Menon, Vice President of Global Operations of National Oilwell Varco (NOV) and President of Auredia (startup funded by NOV).

Presentation by Dr. Katrina Rufino, Associate Professor in Psychology on Suicide Prevention Research – University of Houston-Downtown

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** PowerPoint Presentations  
**FISCAL NOTE:** None  
**RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED:** Information  
**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



\_\_\_\_\_  
**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
04/29/2024

**DATE**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/08/24

**DATE**

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

ITEM: Enhancing Student Success and Research through Innovation – University of Houston

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:

Dr. Ramanan Krishnamoorti, Vice President for Energy and Innovation, will provide presentation on Enhancing Student Success and Research through Innovation, showcasing the efforts of two faculty led student teams – LiQuidium and Echo – and the multidisciplinary teams that have taken intellectual property created by UH faculty and researchers and built business plans and commercialization pathways.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

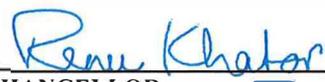
FISCAL NOTE: None

RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED: Information

COMPONENT: University of Houston

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT Renu Khator 5/10/24  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR Diane Z. Chase 05/09/2024  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHANCELLOR Renu Khator 5/10/24  
DATE

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE:** Academic, Research, and Student Success

**ITEM:** Success Story - University of Houston-Downtown

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

The UHD Scholars Academy (SA) is an academically, competitive program in the College of Science and Technology that promotes scholarship and student success for UHD undergraduate students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). We aim to increase the number of students graduating with degrees in the STEM fields, as well as the number of students pursuing graduate and professional degrees.

The UHD Scholars Academy offers a high-quality education through smaller classes, faculty mentoring, modern labs, hands-on experience and flexible course options. Scholars have the opportunity to participate in special extracurricular activities, research internships, community service and STEM-related seminars/field trips. Each student is awarded a scholarship on average of \$3,000 - \$4,000 per academic year.

**SUPPORTING**

**DOCUMENTATION:** PowerPoint Presentation

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:** Information

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston-Downtown



**PRESIDENT**

Loren Blanchard

05/08/24  
DATE



**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

04/29/2024  
DATE



**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

05/08/24  
DATE