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# AGENDA

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

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**DATE:** Thursday, May 21, 2026  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** LeRoy and Lucile Melcher Center for Public Broadcasting  
Rebecca and John Moores Studio 116A, First Floor  
4343 Elgin St.  
Houston, Texas 77204

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**Chair:** Beth Madison  
**Vice Chair:** Patrick Fertitta  
**Members:** Alonzo Cantu  
Gregory C. King  
Lynden Rose  
Adrian Caraves – Non-Voting  
**Ex Officio:** Jack B. Moore

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I. **Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee**

*Presenter: Chair Beth Madison*

A. Call to Order

*Presenter: Chair Beth Madison*

B. Approval of Committee Minutes

- March 12, 2026, Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee Meeting

**Action:** Approval

*Presenter: Chair Beth Madison*

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

**Action:** Approval

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

*Provost*

- D. Request for Approval of Faculty Emeritus Appointments – University of Houston System 10

**Action:** Approval

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

- E. Request for Approval of Faculty Development Leave – University of Houston 29

**Action:** Approval

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

- F. Request for Approval of New Academic Program(s) – University of Houston System 31

**Action:** Approval

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

- G. Request for Approval of Program Closures – University of Houston System 47

**Action:** Approval

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

- H. Faculty Presentation – University of Houston 54

**Action:** Information

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

II. **Executive Session**

*Presenter: Chair Beth Madison*

- 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: Chair Beth Madison*

IV. **Adjourn**

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

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

**ITEM:** Request for 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, 2026. 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 Information

**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

05/14/2026

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



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

Renu Khator

5/18/26

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

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Clear Lake**  
**Effective September 1, 2026**

<u>College</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Present Rank</u>	<u>Recommended Rank</u>
College of Business	Management	Silvana Chambers	Assistant Professor	Associate *
College of Business	Management	Clifton Mayfield	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Science and Engineering	Computer Information Systems	Xinying Liu	Assistant Professor	Associate *
College of Science and Engineering	Computer Engineering	Jiang Lu	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Science and Engineering	Mathematics	Zokhrab Mostafaev	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Science and Engineering	Computer Engineering	Unal Sakoglu	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Science and Engineering	Computer Engineering	Xiaokun Yang	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Human Sciences and Humanities	Psychology	Angela Kelling	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Human Sciences and Humanities	History	Jeremy Piercy	Assistant Professor	Associate *
College of Human Sciences and Humanities	Anthropology	Dawit Waldu	Associate Professor	Professor

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston-Downtown**  
**Effective September 1, 2026**

<b>College</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Arts and Communication	Ashley Archiopoli	Associate Professor	Professor
Marilyn Davies College of Business	Management	Julio Canedo	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Psychology	Kit Cho	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	English	Sucheta Choudhuri	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Social Sciences	Arthur Eliassen	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Sciences and Technology	Computer Science and Engineering Technology	Henry Foust	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor
College of Sciences and Technology	Computer Science and Engineering Technology	Mahmud Hasan	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Arts and Communication	Elizabeth Hatfield	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Public Service	Urban Education	Tonya Jeffery	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor
College of Sciences and Technology	Mathematics and Statistics	Mukesh Kumar	Associate Professor*	N/A
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	English	Paul Kintzele	Associate Professor	Professor
Marilyn Davies College of Business	Finance, Information Systems, Economics, and Risk Management	Daniel Perez	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	English	Ashleigh Petts	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	History, Humanities, and Languages	Vida Robertson	Associate Professor	Professor
Marilyn Davies College of Business	Accounting and International Business	Raghunathan Venugopalan	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Sciences and Technology	Natural Sciences	Adriana Visbal	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor
Marilyn Davies College of Business	Accounting and International Business	Lanyi Zhang	Assistant Professor*	Associate Professor

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2026**

<b>College / Department</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
Architecture		Elham Morshedzadeh	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
		Matthew Johnson	Associate Professor	Professor
		Amygdalia Kyropoulou	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
College of Business	Accountancy & Taxation	Annika Yu Wang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Decision & Information Sciences	Dorothy Lianlian Jiang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Finance	Paola Pederzoli	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Management	Enrica Ruggs	Associate Professor	Professor
	Marketing & Entrepreneurship	Johannes Habel	Associate Professor	Professor
College of Engineering	Biomedical Engineering	Renita Horton	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Biomedical Engineering	Tianfu Wu	Associate Professor	Professor
	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Vedhus Hoskere	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Civil & Environmental Engineering	Mostafa Momen	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	David Matthew Mayerich	Associate Professor	Professor
	Engineering Technology	Abdul Latif Khan	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Human Development & Consumer Sciences	Melika Shirmohammadi	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Industrial Engineering	Zheyong Bian	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Mechanical Engineering	Marzia Cescon	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	English	Eunjeong Lee	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	English	Sally Connolly	Associate Professor	Professor**
	Health and Human Performance	Tracey Ledoux	Associate Professor	Professor
	History	Kelly Hopkins	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Modern & Classical Languages	Wei Wang	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Political Science	Allison Archer	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Political Science	Jennifer Clark	Associate Professor	Professor
	Political Science	Elizabeth Jenke	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
	Sociology	Kathryn Anderson	Associate Professor	Professor
Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Biology and Biochemistry	Richard Meisel	Associate Professor	Professor
	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	Yuxuan Wang	Associate Professor	Professor
	Mathematics	Nicolas Charon	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
College of Nursing		Cheryl Brohard	Associate Professor	Professor

\* Tenure

\*\* Promotion to Professor – Posthumous

**FACULTY PROMOTION LIST**  
**University of Houston**  
**Effective September 1, 2026**

<b>College / Department</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank</b>	<b>Recommended Rank</b>
College of Pharmacy	Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences	Radbod Darabi	Associate Professor	Professor
College of the Arts	School of Art	Dana Frankfort	Associate Professor	Professor
	School of Art	Jillian Conrad	Associate Professor	Professor
	Moore School of Music	Todd Van Kekerix	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Global Hospitality Leadership		Min Jung Shin	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
UH Law Center		Daniel Morales	Associate Professor	Professor
		Kellen Zale	Associate Professor	Professor
		Peter Salib	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor*
Hobby School of Public Affairs		Christopher Bronk	Associate Professor	Professor

\* Tenure

\*\* Promotion to Professor – Posthumous

**FACULTY HIRES WITH TENURE**  
**University of Houston**  
**BOR MAY 2026 – Appointment Effective September 1, 2026**

<b>College/Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present Rank/Institution</b>	<b>Recommended Rank at UH</b>
<b>Business/Marketing and Entrepreneurship</b>	Nathaniel Hartmann	Tenured Associate Professor - University of South Florida	Tenured Associate Professor
<b>Graduate College of Social Work</b>	Yok Fong Paat	Tenured Professor – University of Texas El Paso	Tenured Professor
<b>College of Engineering/Chemical Engineering</b>	Sangtae Kim	Distinguished Professor (Retired) - Purdue University	Tenured Professor

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

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

**ITEM:** Request for Approval of Faculty Emeritus Appointments – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

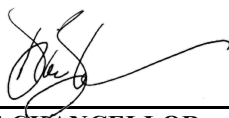
Board approval is requested for faculty emeritus appointments at the University of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake, and University of Houston-Downtown. The emeritus title is conferred only upon retired tenured faculty who have made a significant contribution to the university through a long 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

05/14/2026

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



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

Renu Khator

5/18/20

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

## **University of Houston-Clear Lake 2026 Emeritus Nominations**

### **Dr. Yvette Bendeck - College of Business**

Dr. Yvette Bendeck joined the University of Houston–Clear Lake faculty in 1988 and has served the university with distinction for nearly four decades. During her 38 years at UHCL, she has been an active and influential member of the university community, most recently serving as Professor of Finance and Interim Associate Dean in the College of Business.

Her scholarship has focused on commercial banking and corporate finance, with publications in top-tier peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, and the *Journal of Monetary Economics*. She also has contributed teaching cases and pedagogical work in the *Journal of Case Research and Inquiry*. In the classroom, Dr. Bendeck has taught a broad range of undergraduate and graduate finance courses, consistently emphasizing analytical rigor and the practical application of financial concepts.

At UHCL, Dr. Bendeck has made significant contributions in both faculty governance and academic administration. She served on the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council and later held major leadership roles in Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management, where she helped shape academic policies, enrollment strategy, and institutional operations during an important period of university growth. In 2025–2026, she also served as Interim Associate Dean for the College of Business. Beyond UHCL, she has remained active in professional and community service, including service as President of the Western Case Writers Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of JSC Federal Credit Union.

### **Dr. Lisa Gossett - College of Business**

Dr. Lisa Gossett joined the UHCL faculty in 1993 as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Management and has devoted more than three decades to the university through teaching, leadership, and service. Since earning tenure, she has chaired the Environmental Management program and, in recent years, also led the Management Department within the College of Business.

At the university level, Dr. Gossett has been a visible and effective leader in shared governance, serving as president-elect, president, and past president of the Faculty Senate. She also has chaired the University Life Committee, served as Interim Director of the Environmental Institute of Houston, and contributed in many other university leadership and support roles. Her impact on campus culture was recognized through UHCL's Advancing the Academy Award, which honored her efforts to build constructive change, strengthen relationships across campus, and advocate for faculty, staff, and students.

Outside UHCL, Dr. Gossett has maintained an extensive record of professional and community service. She serves as board president of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance and previously led both the Engineering, Science and Technology Council of Houston and the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. She also served as secretary of the National Association of Environmental Professionals and contributed to its Texas affiliate and other environmental and professional organizations.

**Dr. Barbara Hales - College of Human Sciences and Humanities**

Dr. Barbara Hales is a distinguished scholar in Germanic studies, film studies, Holocaust education, and medical ethics whose 24 years at UHCL have been marked by significant contributions in teaching, research, and public scholarship. Her interdisciplinary work draws on archival research, film studies, psychoanalysis, feminist theory, and medical ethics, and has resulted in two single-authored books, two edited volumes, 15 peer-reviewed articles, and numerous conference papers, keynote addresses, and invited lectures.

Among her major publications are *Black Magic Woman: Gender and the Occult in Weimar Germany* and *Cinematically Transmitted Disease: Eugenics and Film in Weimar and Nazi Germany*, both of which have been recognized for their innovative scholarship. Dr. Hales also has been a leading public intellectual, serving as President of the Center for Medicine After the Holocaust and advancing Holocaust education and medical ethics through museum exhibits, speaker series, international seminars, and study programs.

Her contributions to UHCL and beyond reflect a rare combination of scholarly accomplishment, teaching, and civic leadership. She founded UHCL's Film and History Speaker Series and has earned broad recognition for her work, including being selected as a UHCL Piper finalist in 2023.

**Dr. Lisa Jones - College of Education**

Dr. Lisa Jones joined the University of Houston–Clear Lake faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor in fall 1999 and has served the university for 26 years with a strong commitment to advocacy, servant leadership, and student, faculty, and staff empowerment. Throughout her career, she has combined scholarship, leadership, and service in ways that have made a lasting impact on both the university and the broader community.

Her research has focused on educational inequities affecting underrepresented minorities and on the best practices of culturally responsive teaching and advocacy. This work has led to publications in both research and practitioner journals. She also serves as Principal Investigator of a \$1.599 million August F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, reflecting the significance and reach of her scholarship.

At UHCL, Dr. Jones has served as Faculty Senate President, the university's first Faculty Ombudsperson, Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the UHCL Minority Mentoring Association, and a department chair. Her contributions have been recognized through the UHCL Alumni Association Outstanding Professor Award and Fellowship and the UHCL Faculty Fellowship Award. Beyond the university, she has served in leadership roles with the National Association for African American Studies & Affiliates, taught internationally as a People's Republic of China Academic Scholar Award recipient, and contributed to the Houston community through board service and public recognition for her significant contributions.

**Dr. Richard Puzdrowski - College of Science and Engineering**

Dr. Rick Puzdrowski joined the UHCL faculty in 1999 and built a distinguished 27-year career marked by excellence in teaching, research, advising, and academic leadership. His research focused on comparative neuroanatomy of vertebrates, especially brain evolution in fishes, and resulted in numerous academic publications and externally funded work supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other sources. In 2019, he was named a member of UHCL's "Million Dollar Club" in recognition of more than \$1 million in external grant funding.

At UHCL, Dr. Puzdrowski taught courses that prepared students for careers in health and science, including human anatomy, human physiology, pathophysiology, animal physiology, and neuroscience. He also served as faculty advisor to many student organizations and was recognized in 2019 by the UHCL Center for Faculty Development for having taught more than 5,000 students. His teaching excellence was further recognized through the UHCL Alumni Association Outstanding Professor Award and an Excellence in Teaching award from the UHCL chapter of the National Society for Leadership and Success.

Dr. Puzdrowski's leadership and service were equally significant. He chaired the Health Professions Advisory Committee for more than two decades, advised students pursuing careers in medicine and related fields, and led UHCL's efforts to join the Joint Admissions Medical Program, serving as UHCL JAMP Faculty Director from 2014 to 2026. He also served as chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and later the Department of Biology and Biotechnology, chaired the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for many years, and contributed extensively to university committees and local science fairs.

**Dr. Larry Rohde - College of Science and Engineering**

Dr. Larry H. Rohde served as Associate Professor of Biology and Biotechnology at UHCL and provided long-standing leadership as former program chair of the Master of Science in Biotechnology and former chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. His academic preparation included doctoral work at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer

Center, followed by postdoctoral study at Stanford University Medical Center in stem cell biology and programmed cell death.

At UHCL, Dr. Rohde became known as a dedicated teacher and mentor who worked to strengthen laboratory and biotechnology education. He reorganized existing laboratory courses and developed new offerings in tissue culture, molecular biology, genetics, and biotechnology to better prepare students for graduate study and careers in research. His teaching was recognized through UHCL's nomination for the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Professor Award in 2007.

Dr. Rohde also maintained a productive research career supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health—National Cancer Institute and the National Science Foundation. His collaboration with NASA researchers led to several publications and an experiment on the International Space Station studying the impact of microgravity on cellular DNA repair. Over the course of his career at UHCL, he helped secure more than \$1 million in grant funding for research and equipment, further strengthening the university's scientific capacity.

#### **Dr. Paul Wagner - College of Education**

Dr. Paul Wagner has had a distinguished career of scholarship, leadership, and service at the University of Houston—Clear Lake and beyond. He founded the Council of Professors and served as its first president, held a formal joint appointment between the College of Education and the College of Human Sciences and Humanities, and taught courses in all four UHCL colleges as well as on every campus in the University of Houston System. His contributions were recognized with the university's President's Award for both research and service, as well as the inaugural Circle Award.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Wagner has published more than 120 professional journal articles in philosophy, education, and cognitive science, along with ten books and a professional training instrument in moral development for teachers. His work also appeared in major newspapers including the Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, and Austin American-Statesman. He held visiting or invited appointments at Harvard University, Stanford University, and Yale University and collaborated with prominent scholars such as Lawrence Kohlberg, Israel Scheffler, Patrick Suppes, and Matthew Lipman.

Dr. Wagner has also been a leader in professional organizations and civic life. He served as President of the American Philosophical Association for Philosophers in Education, Vice President of the association for six years, and International Executive Secretary for the Philosophy of Education Society. His commitment to public engagement extended to leadership roles with organizations such as Leadership Houston, the Houston Marathon Board of Directors, and the Texas Foundation of Education.

**Dr. Laurie Weaver - College of Education**

Dr. Laurie Weaver has been connected to the University of Houston–Clear Lake for nearly four decades. She first attended UHCL as a graduate student from 1985 to 1988, then served as an adjunct instructor from 1988 to 1995. After two years as a tenure-track professor at Texas A&M University, she returned to UHCL as a full-time faculty member in 1997. Across her roles as student, adjunct faculty member, and professor, Dr. Weaver has been an active participant in the life of the university for 39 years.

Her research has focused on bilingual and ESL teacher preparation. In addition to her publications and presentations, she has played an important role in collaborative grant writing that resulted in nearly \$7 million in funding. Those grant projects supported students pursuing bilingual teacher certification and advanced graduate study in educational administration, library science, counseling, and teaching students from diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Weaver’s service record is extensive at the college, university, and professional levels. She served as Program Director from 1998 to 2025 and, since 2007, as UHCL’s Instructional Supervisor at McWhirter Elementary PDLS, a role central to the UHCL/Clear Creek Independent School District partnership. She also has served the National Association for Bilingual Education and the Texas Association for Bilingual Education in numerous leadership roles, including service on the TABE Executive Board and as co-chair of the annual conference multiple times. Her work has been recognized through a UHCL Faculty Fellowship, the UHCL Distinguished Service Award, the UHCL Distinguished Faculty Award, and recognition as the UHCL recipient of the Minnie Stevens Piper Award in Education.

**Dr. Kevin Wooten - College of Business**

Dr. Kevin Wooten has played a distinctive and long-standing role in the history of UHCL. A member of the university’s first student cohort in 1974, he later served on the inaugural UHCL Alumni Board and joined the faculty full time in 1991. He currently serves as Professor of Management and Human Resource Management after previously serving as the university’s inaugural Chief Strategy Officer and as Chair of the Management Department for more than a decade.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Wooten has developed and taught more than twenty distinct courses in management and human resource management. He twice led the curriculum model for the graduate program in Human Resource Management, co-led the American Society of Anesthesiologists Certificate in Business Administration for twenty years, and has played a significant role on curriculum boards for the American Medical Association. His teaching has been marked by strong integration of professional practice, student consulting projects, and applied leadership development.

Dr. Wooten also has had a substantial scholarly and professional impact. He has authored more than fifty peer-reviewed journal articles and abstracts and close to one

hundred academic conference presentations and posters. His work appears in prominent journals including Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Vocational Behavior, Human Resource Management Review, and Human Relations. He also is a recognized national thought leader in leadership assessment center methods for scientific leaders and serves as Director and architect of the NIH-funded TeamMAPPS program. More recently, he helped lead the formation of the Greater Gulf Coast Translational Science Alliance and the receipt of a seven-year NIH-funded grant that brought UHCL into a major strategic research and workforce development partnership.

**Dr. Kwok-Bun Yue - College of Science and Engineering**

Dr. Kwok-Bun Yue joined the UHCL faculty in 1988 and has served as Professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems since 2006. His career has been marked by sustained contributions in scholarship, teaching, academic program development, and service. His research interests include databases, concurrent programming, blockchain, Internet computing, semi-structured data, and computer science and information systems education.

Dr. Yue has published 58 refereed journal and conference papers and received 21 external grants totaling more than \$3 million, including 17 grants as principal investigator totaling \$2.7 million. Among these awards were two NASA grants on blockchain research from 2020 to 2023 totaling \$875,000. He created and led the UHCL Blockchain Investigation Group, which produced refereed publications and successfully completed the NASA-funded work. In teaching, he has taught 14 undergraduate and 10 graduate courses, designed and developed 10 new courses, and introduced leading technologies to UHCL curricula, including Java, web development, and blockchain. He also has been highly active in supervising student research, publishing 16 refereed papers with student co-authors.

Dr. Yue's service to UHCL has been equally significant. He served in chairperson roles within Computing Sciences for 22 years, including leadership of the Division of Computer and Mathematics, the Computer Science program, the Computer Information Systems program, and the Data Science program. He led multiple ABET accreditation cycles, directed the UHCL NSF STEM scholarship program for 13 years, and helped create three-degree programs: the BAS in Information Technology, the BS in Information Technology, and the MS in Data Science. His many honors include the UHCL Distinguished Teaching Award, the UHCL Alumni Association Outstanding Professor Award, the UHCL Fellowship, and the Distinguished Professorship in Computer Science and Engineering Award.

## University of Houston-Downtown 2026 Emeritus Nominations

### **Dr. Sandra Dahlberg - Department of English**

Dr. Dahlberg joined the faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) in 1997 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, later achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 2002 and Professor in 2008. During her tenure as faculty at UHD, Dr. Dahlberg distinguished herself as a pioneering teacher who provided students with rigorous and engaging courses. She has taught over twenty separate courses at UHD, including lower-division courses and upper-division courses in American Literature, drama, social class, folklore, and several graduate courses supporting the MARC and MAT programs. Dr. Dahlberg has led multiple study abroad trips for UHD students to Europe, providing high impact experiences for students in her literature courses. Her scholarship has been recognized as she won the UHD Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activities in 2024 for her outstanding record of creative activity including two books, peer-reviewed articles, and an expansive list of presentations. Her most recent monograph, *The Travels of Richard Traunter* (University of Virginia Press, 2022), received the Best Historical Materials Award (2024) from the American Library Association. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the UHD community was her time serving as the Faculty Ombuds for 8 years. In this capacity she has counseled numerous faculty members providing support and guidance during difficult times.

Dr. Dahlberg has served UHD with distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service for over 28 years and is deserving of being awarded the honorary rank of Professor Emerita.

### **Dr. William Waters - Department of English**

Dr. Waters joined the faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) in 2008 as an Assistant Professor of the Department of English, later achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 2012. During his time at UHD, Dr. Waters has been instrumental to the BA in English and MA in Rhetoric and Composition programs in the department of English through the wide variety of courses taught and the number of master's theses he has advised. Beyond UHD, he has served on doctoral dissertation committees for students at the University of Houston, Georgia State University, and University of Washington. Dr. Waters was an active member of many important departmental committees including as well as university committees. Dr. Waters has served the larger academic community as well. His book, *Destination Dissertation* (3 editions) helps students in a variety of disciplines to prepare and complete dissertation projects successfully.

Dr. Waters has served UHD and beyond with distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service for over 18 years, and is deserving of being awarded the honorary rank of Associate Professor Emeritus.

### **Professor Floyd Newsum - Department of Arts and Communication**

Professor Newsum passed away in August 2024 while still an active, fully engaged member of the faculty of the University of Houston-Downtown. His distinguished 47 years of service include excellence in teaching, creative scholarship, and service. Professor Newsum's artwork and service have been recognized beyond UHD. His artwork is held in leading institutions including the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and several other museums and private collections across the country. His public art commissions in Houston and Fort Worth, as well as his four murals in UHD's Commerce Street Building, exemplify the prominence of his artistic contributions. In 2023, he was honored with a full-career retrospective at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and a major solo exhibition at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens opened posthumously in 2025. A scholarly book on his work is currently in progress with Texas A&M University Press.

As a co-founder of the internationally recognized Project Row Houses, he helped elevate the visibility of community-engaged art and, by extension, UHD. He brought numerous artists and speakers to campus, contributed to committee work at the department, college, and university levels, and served on the University of Houston System's Public Art Committee. His mentorship of faculty and staff over several decades strengthened the institution and contributed to the development and recruitment of talent in the arts.

Professor Floyd Newsum's impact on UHD is enduring. His national reputation brought distinction to the university, and his commitment to cultivating an accessible and welcoming space for artistic inquiry enriched the academic experience of countless students. His legacy continues to shape the university's artistic and academic landscape. For these reasons, Professor Floyd Newsum deserves to be awarded the title of Professor Emeritus posthumously.

### **Dr. Tammis Thomas - Department of English**

Dr. Tammis Thomas has served the University of Houston-Downtown and the Department of English for over 30 years as an assistant professor, associate professor with tenure, and as a professor. During her career, Dr. Thomas offered courses at all curricular levels, ranging from developmental writing and first-year composition to upper-division seminars in gender studies, cultural criticism, Holocaust literature, and German literature. Dr. Thomas committed herself to the success of first-generation and at-risk students, ensuring it through her nationally recognized expertise in high-impact pedagogical practices. Dr. Thomas served the university through her participation in over 50 committees, but her work on committees serving our First Time-in-College student population has been instrumental to UHD. She coordinated the First-Year Seminar, chaired the General Education Committee, led the Developmental Curriculum Committee, and served on the First Time-in-College Steering Committee, the Admissions Review Committee, the First-Year Success Committee, and the Student Retention

Committee, among others. In support of the university's mission, Dr. Thomas, through her curricular and institutional initiatives, has helped countless students persist and reach their full potential.

Dr. Tammis Thomas has served UHD with distinction in teaching, service, and scholarship for three decades. Her contributions to the university and our student body are transformative and enduring. As such, Dr. Thomas is well deserving of the title of Professor Emerita.

**Dr. Mohsen Mobasher - Department of Social Sciences**

Dr. Mobasher has devoted more than two decades of distinguished service to the University of Houston-Downtown, having joined the faculty in 2002 and serving as Associate Professor since 2006. Over the course of his tenure at UHD—spanning more than 20 years of continuous service—he has built a nationally and internationally recognized record of scholarship, teaching, and service in the fields of urban studies and the Iranian diaspora. Dr. Mobasher taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses, including sociology of migration, globalization, social theory, urban sociology, and research methods and was recognized for his teaching. Dr. Mobasher is the author of the widely cited book *Iranians in Texas: Migration, Politics, and Ethnic Identity* (University of Texas Press), now in a revised and expanded 2025 edition, as well as editor of *The Iranian Diaspora: Challenges, Negotiations, and Transformations* (2018). His forthcoming edited volume on the global Iranian diaspora further demonstrates his continued intellectual leadership in the field.

Equally noteworthy is Dr. Mobasher's extensive record of service and leadership. He has held numerous administrative roles at UHD, including Director of the Cullen Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, Sociology & Anthropology Coordinator, and Director of the Houston Urban Research Center. In these roles, he contributed significantly to faculty development, curriculum planning, and interdisciplinary research initiatives. Beyond UHD, Dr. Mobasher has served as a reviewer for leading academic journals and publishers, participated in professional organizations, and contributed to scholarly communities both nationally and internationally.

With these accomplishments as evidence, Dr. Mohsen M. Mobasher meets the requirements for the honorary rank of Associate Professor Emeritus.

**Dr. Maria Pitter Bhattacharjee - Department of Urban Education**

Dr. Bhattacharjee joined the faculty at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) in 1996 as an Assistant Professor in the Urban Education Department, later achieving the rank of Associate Professor in 2004. Dr. Bhattacharjee retired from UHD in 2022 but returned in 2023 to serve as the Program Director for the UHD Bilingual Digital Library. In Dr. Bhattacharjee's three decades of service to UHD, she has served as the Department Chair of Urban Education and the Director of the Bilingual Program. Dr. Bhattacharjee taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses in bilingual

education, literacy, and curriculum development, often designing new curricula and mentoring pre-service teachers in field-based settings. Her impact is evident in the generations of educators she has prepared, many of whom now serve in high-need urban schools. Dr. Bhattacharjee's research on emergent literacy, culturally responsive pedagogy, and technology integration has been disseminated through numerous peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and funded projects. Notably, she co-developed the U.S. Department of Commerce-funded UHD Bilingual E-Library, an innovative digital resource that promotes literacy and preserves cultural heritage. She has held leadership roles in professional organizations such as the National Association for Bilingual Education and has been a dedicated advocate for bilingual and ESL education at local, state, and national levels. Her long-standing partnerships with schools, particularly in Houston ISD, have strengthened the connection between the university and the Houston community.

Dr. Bhattacharjee has served UHD with distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service for over 30 years, and is deserving of the honorary rank of Associate Professor Emerita.

## **University of Houston 2026 Emeritus Nominations**

### **Ruth E. Manny – Professor – Clinical Sciences, Optometry**

During Dr. Ruth Manny's career at UH, she devoted her life to caring for others, especially children, and to making the world a little clearer—literally and figuratively—for generations. For more than fifty years, she served as a clinician, scientist, teacher, mentor, and advocate, always guided by a deep sense of responsibility to her patients, her students, and her community.

After completing her OD at UHCO, she earned an MS in 1979 and a PhD in 1981 before joining the faculty as a tenure-track clinician-scientist. She attained the rank of Professor in 2000 and held the Charles R. Stuart Professorship until her unexpected passing in January 2026. Dr. Manny's research changed how pediatric eye care is practiced around the world. She had over 40 years of basic, translational, and clinical research experience with over 30 years of NIH funding. She helped lead large national studies that improved the diagnosis and treatment of childhood vision problems such as amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (eye misalignment), and myopia (nearsightedness). The findings from these studies are now part of everyday evidence-based clinical care. Even on the day she passed away, new scientific papers bearing her name were published—quiet proof of a lifetime of sustained impact. She had over 130 peer-reviewed papers which have been cited more than 7500 times to date. She was inducted into the American Academy of Optometry's Hall of Fame (inaugural class of 100) in 2022, and she was ranked #65 among all optometrists in research impact.

Dr. Manny believed strongly in making UH the best that it could be serving on numerous campus committees including Promotion and Tenure for many years. She served on the Faculty Senate for over 25 years, including time on the Executive Committee. In 2024, she was awarded the Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Service – Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Manny reviewed hundreds of research papers and grants, served in leadership roles for national research groups such as the National Eye Institute-funded Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG), was the clinic PI for multiple NEI-funded large multi-center longitudinal studies and clinical trials, and worked behind the scenes to ensure that science was rigorous, ethical, and focused on real-world benefit.

Despite her global professional impact, Dr. Manny remained grounded and unassuming. Ruth showed up every day for her patients, her students, her colleagues, and her family. She cared deeply about fairness, access, and doing things the right way. Dr. Manny passed unexpectedly in January 2026 and the University would like to honor her memory by posthumously recognizing her with Emeritus status.

**Richard F. Dole, Jr. – Professor – UH Law Center**

Professor Richard Dole held the Bobby Wayne Young Chair on Consumer Law at the University of Houston Law Center and served the institution for more than four decades. He was a distinguished scholar and teacher in commercial law, bankruptcy, consumer protection, and creditors' and debtors' rights.

Over nearly 62 years of scholarship, Professor Dole authored numerous influential works, including 3 books and 28 law review articles. Professor Dole's scholarship has been cited in law review articles more than 100 times and by federal and state courts over 40 times, including the New York Court of Appeals, reflecting its lasting influence in the fields of commercial law, bankruptcy, consumer protection, and creditors' and debtors' protections. He also served as a Fulbright Scholar, visiting professor, and advisor to major legal bodies.

In addition to scholarship, Professor Dole has made significant contributions to the legal profession and public service. He has been a member of the American Law Institute for almost 50 years and has served as Chair of the Texas Commission on Uniform State Laws where his expertise informed public policy and legislative development. Notably, Professor Dole served as a consultant on the Bankruptcy Revision Project for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. Professor Dole passed away in March 2026 and the University would like to honor his lifelong dedication to legal scholarship and his foundational contributions to serving the Law Center by posthumously recognizing him with Emeritus status.

**Donna Kacmar – Professor – Hines College of Architecture**

Professor Donna Kacmar has made significant contributions to the University of Houston through an exceptional record of scholarship, teaching, and service. Kacmar has led an award-winning architectural practice, receiving seven AIA Houston or Texas Society of Architects design awards for built works, both through her independent practice or in collaboration with others. Her broader overall professional achievements have also been widely recognized including the AIA Houston Chapter Young Architect Award (2000), the Texas Society of Architects William W. Caudill Award (2000), the National American Institute of Architects Young Architects Award (2004), the Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society of Texas Tech University Silver Medal Award (2005), election to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (2009), and the Texas A&M University College of Architecture Outstanding Alumni Award (2011).

Professor Kacmar has also built a substantial and distinguished teaching record. She has taught across the curriculum, including undergraduate design studios, first-year graduate studios, as well as, building technology and seminar courses and several study abroad programs. She was recognized by the AIA Houston with the Educator of the Year Award (2007) and twice by the college with the Outstanding Faculty Award (2009 and 2010). Most recently, she received the 2025 Texas Society of Architects Award for

Outstanding Educational Contributions, an award recognizing exceptional impact in architectural education.

She has served on the boards of the AIA Houston Chapter, Avenue Community Development Corporation, Rice Design Alliance, Architecture Center Houston Foundation, Texas Society of Architects, and the national AIA Strategic Council. She currently serves on the Greater Houston Complete Streets Coalition Steering Committee, working with local organizations to help improve walkability in Houston. Professor Kacmar's historic role, leadership, and sustained excellence fully merit the designation of emeritus status.

**Julie Dunsmore – Professor – PHLS, College of Education**

It is my pleasure to offer this letter to nominate Dr. Julie Dunsmore, Professor in the Human Development and Family Sciences Program, for consideration for Emeritus Status with the University of Houston. Her consistent contributions and excellence across Research, Teaching, and Service exemplify the spirit of Emeritus Status. Dr. Dunsmore has a distinguished research record, including 75 peer-reviewed articles cited 5,984 times (h-index 34) and over \$2 million in external funding as PI or Co-PI. She was elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association in 2020.

Dr. Dunsmore has demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching through undergraduate and graduate instruction, high teaching evaluations, and multiple teaching awards. Her service record spans the department, college, university, and disciplinary levels, including leadership on university research committees and national service activities. Within the PHLS department, Dr. Dunsmore has held numerous committee memberships as well as leadership positions on search committees. These efforts are reflected at the college level as well. Her work at the university includes participation and leadership on the Conflict of Interest in Research Committee where she has been a member since 2021 and now serves as chair. She is a valued and respected member of the department and college, and her career reflects a significant and lasting contribution to the University of Houston.

**Paul Kittelson – Associate Professor - School of Art, McGovern College of the Arts**

Associate Professor Paul Kittelson retired in August 2025 after a 35-year career at the University of Houston. He is an internationally recognized sculptor whose large-scale public artworks—such as Bayou Beacons, Take Off, Heritage Lanterns, and Healing Trees—have become landmarks in Houston and beyond. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and collected by major museums including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Menil Collection.

As a faculty member since 1990, Professor Kittelson profoundly shaped the Sculpture Program through his teaching, mentorship, and leadership. He was instrumental in advocating for and helping design the Elgin Street Studios, transforming the infrastructure and integration of the program. His engagement with Houston's artistic

community, dedication to students, and lasting impact on both the university and the city make him highly deserving of emeritus status.

**Alan R. Burns – Professor - Vision Sciences, College of Optometry**

Dr. Alan Burns joined the University of Houston College of Optometry faculty in 2008 and was promoted to Professor in 2012. He has held endowed professorships since 2016 and is internationally recognized as a leader in corneal biology, inflammation, and wound healing. Dr. Burns has maintained continuous external funding since receiving his first NIH R01 in 2000 and has authored more than 143 peer-reviewed publications, with an h-index of 56.

In addition to his outstanding research record, Dr. Burns has made major contributions as a teacher and mentor, graduating nine PhD students and four OD/MS students and serving as a key resource in histology and imaging. His extensive service includes long-standing participation on NIH and CIHR study sections and leadership roles within the college and university. His career reflects sustained excellence and significant contribution to the University of Houston, fully meriting emeritus status.

**Jonathan Middents – Associate Professor - Theatre & Dance, McGovern College of the Arts**

Professor Jonathan Middents has served the University of Houston system with distinction since 1977, including nearly four decades at the UH Main Campus beginning in 1983. As Production Manager and Technical Director for the School of Theatre & Dance and the Houston Shakespeare Festival, he coordinated and supervised all technical aspects of productions through 2018.

A highly accomplished scenic and lighting designer, Professor Middents was an insightful and imaginative collaborator whose technical expertise and generosity profoundly shaped countless productions. His decades of mentoring students through hands-on production work helped launch many successful professional careers. Professor Middents remains an engaged and valued member of the School, and his sustained service, mentorship, and continued connection fully merit emeritus status.

**Jerry J. Waite- Professor- Information Sciences Technology, College of Engineering**

Dr. Jerry J. Waite retired as a full professor in 2023 after 50 years in the graphic communications field, including 30 years at the University of Houston. He founded the Graphic Communications Technology program in 1993 and expanded it into the Digital Media bachelor's program, now serving over 500 majors and representing a model program nationally through repeated accreditation successes.

Dr. Waite's impact as an educator, administrator, and scholar is extensive. He authored six textbooks, more than 55 peer-reviewed articles, and dozens of trade publications, while also securing significant grants and industry software partnerships valued at nearly \$2 million. His teaching excellence, professional leadership, and lasting

contributions to student success and program development fully justify his nomination for emeritus status.

**Paul M. Janicke – Professor – UH Law Center**

Professor Paul Janicke has had a long and distinguished career as a scholar, teacher, and practitioner in intellectual property law, joining the University of Houston Law Center in 1992 and continuing active service through a VMOE after retiring in 2016. He played a central role in founding and building the Institute for Intellectual Property & Information Law (IPIL), which consistently ranks among the nation’s top IP programs.

A prolific scholar, Professor Janicke authored a widely used patent litigation treatise and 28 law review articles cited extensively by academics and courts. His outstanding teaching, national professional service, and foundational contributions to the Law Center and the field of intellectual property law fully merit the designation of Professor Emeritus.

**Lawrence J. H. Schulze – Associate Professor – Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering**

Dr. Lawrence J. H. Schulze has had a distinguished and sustained career in industrial engineering, occupational safety, and ergonomics, marked by exceptional contributions to teaching, research, service, and professional practice. He joined the University of Houston in 1989 and has served continuously in the Department of Industrial Engineering, providing long-standing leadership as Director of the Occupational Safety and Ergonomics Program and in the development of the Process Safety Certificate Program.

He has taught more than 3,200 students, supervised 17 master’s theses and 9 doctoral dissertations, and made significant scholarly contributions through publications, conference presentations, and national and international standards work. His externally funded, industry-engaged research, extensive university and professional service, and national recognition—including Fellow status and induction into the ASSP Hall of Fame—clearly justify his nomination for Professor Emeritus.

**William Rixey – Associate Professor – Civil Engineering – College of Engineering**

Dr. William Rixey joined the University of Houston faculty in 1993 after an engineering career in industry and has since built an outstanding record of research, teaching, and service in environmental and civil engineering. His research has focused on soil and groundwater remediation, contaminant fate and transport, and the environmental impacts of fuels, supported by more than \$3 million in research funding and resulting in approximately 50 publications and over 100 presentations.

Dr. Rixey is widely regarded as a master teacher, having taught core undergraduate and graduate courses and mentored numerous MS and PhD students. His service as Associate Chair, journal editor, accreditation leader, and consultant to industry and

government, combined with multiple university and college teaching awards, make him highly deserving of emeritus status.

**Stephanie K. Daniels – Professor - Communication Disorders, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences**

Dr. Stephanie K. Daniels has had a distinguished and impactful career characterized by excellence in scholarship, leadership, teaching, mentorship, and service. She joined the University of Houston faculty in 2009 and was promoted to Professor in 2013, serving the department for over a decade including eight years as Vice-Chair. Her internationally recognized research on dysphagia and neurogenic communication disorders has resulted in more than 35 peer-reviewed publications, approximately 30 book chapters, multiple major grants, and foundational clinical texts.

Dr. Daniels' achievements include receiving the Gold Medal Award from the Dysphagia Research Society and being named a Fellow of ASHA. She has provided exceptional teaching, mentorship, and service to the department, college, university, and profession, leaving a lasting legacy of academic excellence and leadership that fully merits the designation of Professor Emerita.

**Casey Dué-Hackney – Professor – Modern & Classical Languages, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences**

Professor Casey Dué-Hackney joined the University of Houston in 2001 and over a twenty-five-year career built an international reputation in Classical Studies through exceptional scholarship, award-winning teaching, and sustained service. She is the sole author of three books and co-author of two additional volumes on Homeric studies, a leader in digital philology through the Homer Multitext Project, and Associate Editor of the Cambridge Guide to Homer. Her scholarship has been recognized with the UH Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship and the CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award.

Professor Dué-Hackney is also an outstanding teacher whose courses anchor the Classical Studies program and consistently attract large enrollments. She has mentored student research, led international study programs, and secured major external funding, including multiple NEH grants. Despite an early retirement due to serious ongoing medical issues, she intends to remain active in research, mentoring, and program activities. Her sustained excellence and continued contributions fully merit the designation of Professor Emerita.

**Sarah Fishman – Professor – History, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

Professor Sarah Fishman, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History, will retire in August 2026 after thirty-eight years of distinguished service to the University of Houston. She is an internationally recognized scholar of modern French history and women's history, authoring four single-authored monographs (two translated into French), co-editing major scholarly volumes, and co-authoring a widely used textbook. Her scholarship has been recognized with a UH Research Excellence Award and the

CLASS Distinguished Faculty Award.

Professor Fishman has also been an award-winning teacher at both undergraduate and graduate levels and a deeply committed servant of the university. She served for sixteen years as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in CLASS, helping to shape the college's academic culture and student-centered practices. Her sustained achievements in research, teaching, and service clearly justify the honor of Professor Emerita.

**David S. Buck – Clinical Professor, Fertitta Family College of Medicine**

Dr. David S. Buck has made a significant and lasting contribution to the University of Houston through distinguished leadership, service, and community-engaged scholarship. As one of the earliest senior leaders of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and its founding Associate Dean for Community Health, he played a central role in shaping the College's mission, identity, and community engagement strategy during its formative years. Dr. Buck established the Health Commons model and built durable partnerships with community, governmental, and cross-sector organizations, positioning UH as a national leader in shared governance and community-based academic medicine. His nationally and internationally recognized career in community health—including the founding and leadership of multiple service organizations—strengthened the College's credibility, expanded interprofessional education, and contributed materially to the University's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. In recognition of his sustained excellence, foundational leadership, and continuing value to the University, Dr. Buck is fully deserving of appointment as Professor Emeritus, a designation that will allow him to continue serving UH through mentorship, teaching, and service.

**Paul A. Bertagnolli – Professor – Moores School of Music, McGovern College of the Arts**

Professor Paul A. Bertagnolli has rendered long and distinguished service to the University of Houston through sustained excellence in scholarship, teaching, and academic service over a twenty-five-year career in the Moores School of Music. An internationally respected musicologist specializing in nineteenth-century music, he is the author of two major monographs and more than two dozen peer-reviewed articles published in leading journals, work that has been widely recognized for its originality and scholarly impact. Professor Bertagnolli is equally known as an outstanding teacher and mentor, particularly for his exceptional guidance of graduate students and supervision of a large number of doctoral documents, through which he influenced generations of musicians and scholars. His extensive service on departmental, college, and university committees further reflects his commitment to institutional excellence. In recognition of his distinguished scholarly record, exemplary teaching and mentorship, and sustained service to the University of Houston, Professor Bertagnolli fully merits appointment as Professor Emeritus.

**C. Chet Miller – Professor – Decision & Information Sciences, Bauer College of Business**

Professor Miller is an internationally recognized scholar in organizational studies, strategic management, and decision making. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has published extensively in many of the most prestigious journals in the management field, including *Academy of Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Organization Science*, *Strategic Management Journal*, and *Harvard Business Review*. His research on strategic decision processes, organizational control, stretch goals, and executive cognition has had a substantial impact on both scholarship and practice. His work has received over 10,000 Google Scholar citations. He has also earned numerous national and international honors, including the Academy of Management Review Best Paper Award, the Academy of Management Annals Best Paper Award, and multiple Outstanding Reviewer and Outstanding Board Member recognitions

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

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

**ITEM:** Request for Approval of Faculty Development Leave – University of Houston

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

Faculty Development Leave (FDL) proposals. FDL's enable the faculty member to undertake "study, research, writing, and similar projects for the purpose of adding to the knowledge" in ways that improve the productivity and competitiveness of the faculty, university, and state.

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:**

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

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

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston





**PRESIDENT**

Renu Khator

**DATE**



**SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR**

Diane Z. Chase

05/14/2026

**DATE**





**CHANCELLOR**

Renu Khator

**DATE**

**University of Houston**  
**Faculty Development Leave Applications**  
 Board of Regents Meeting  
 May 21, 2026

Faculty Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	(full/1/ 2)	Leave Reason
Sheng Kuan Chung	College of Education	Curriculum and Instruction	Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	U.S. Fulbright Scholar Award and invitation to serve as a Visiting Scholar with the Department of Science Communication at National Pingtung University (NPTU) in Taiwan. The project, titled Critical Visual Agency: Cross-Cultural Digital Visual Literacy in Education, investigates how meme culture and influencer strategies can inform evidence-based curricula for critical digital visual literacy across two national contexts: Taiwan and the United States.
Virginia Snogross-Rangel	College of Education	Ed Leadership and Policy Studies	Associate Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	To complete a comprehensive systematic review of autonomy development in undergraduate and graduate STEM research settings.
David Crump	UH Law Center		Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To conduct a project that will involve the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. Specifically, the subject will involve cases in which the courts “balance” the privilege with other governmental interests.

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

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

**ITEM:** Request for Approval of New Academic Program(s) – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

**SUMMARY:**

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:**

Excel Spreadsheet  
Executive Summaries  
Pro Forma  
Budget and Enrollment Spreadsheets

**FISCAL NOTE:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED:**

Administration recommends approval of this item

**COMPONENT:**

University of Houston



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

Diane Z. Chase

05/14/2026

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



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

Renu Khator

5/18/26

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

**University of Houston System**  
 Summary of New Academic Programs  
 Academic, Research and Student Success Committee  
 Thursday, May 21, 2026

Component	Program	Proposed Implementation Date	Purpose	Comments
UHD	MS Biological Sciences and Instrumentation	Fall 2026	The University of Houston-Downtown requests approval to establish a 33-semester-credit-hour Master of Science in Biological Sciences and Instrumentation designed for completion in two years. The program is designed to deliver an integrated curriculum that blends rigorous science content, practical lab training, and career-ready skills. Graduates are prepared for high-demand roles such as vector surveillance technicians, diagnostic laboratory technicians, and research program coordinators within the Houston region's extensive testing laboratory network. Market demand is supported by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which projects a 9% growth rate for laboratory scientists through 2034; significantly higher than the 3.1% national average for all occupations. While over two-thirds of medical scientists hold advanced degrees, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board data indicates that only 58% of the state's demand for these qualified workers is being met. The program responds to the Office of the Governor's need for a technically skilled workforce to support biotechnology and healthcare; sectors where the Texas Enterprise Fund has awarded over \$109 million. Harris County specifically ranks as the #1 county in the U.S. for testing laboratories. While other institutions such as the University of Houston, University of Houston-Clear Lake, and Texas Southern University offer biological science degrees, this program is unique in its specific focus on instrumentation and applied laboratory skills. This distinguishes it from more theoretical or traditional research-based degrees. The program expects to generate revenue in its third year of operation.	In-Person/Hybrid
UH	BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics	Fall 2026	The University of Houston requests approval to establish a 120-semester-credit-hour Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). Designed for completion in four years, this interdisciplinary program teaches students to analyze social world complexities through the lens of scarcity and allocation (Economics), institutional stability (Political Science), and moral justification (Philosophy). Graduates of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) program will possess a versatile combination of hard data analysis skills and soft interpersonal abilities. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projections for 2033, there is substantial market demand for these competencies, with 50,000 or more new positions expected for financial managers, management analysts, and market research analysts. It also anticipates between 10,000 and 50,000 new openings for financial and investment analysts, operations research analysts, and human resource managers. Furthermore, this degree serves as a natural gateway for students entering the legal field, which is projected to add over 10,000 new positions by 2033. Criswell College, Dallas Baptist University, and Austin College offer similar programs, but the proposed program at UH is more comparable to the program at Austin College and national models at George Mason University and Georgia State University, which are unavailable in the region. The program expects to generate revenue in its fourth year of operation.	In-Person
UH	MDES Master of Design Studies	Fall 2026	The University of Houston requests approval to establish a 30-semester-credit-hour Master of Design Studies (MDes), designed for completion in one year. This program is intended to replace the existing Master of Arts in Architectural Studies degree. The program utilizes existing faculty and facilities, requiring no additional university resources for implementation. By shifting to this model, the university will offer a more versatile and recognizable credential that aligns with contemporary industry standards, attracting a diverse cohort of students interested in specialized design research. The curriculum emphasizes a flexible, elective-based structure culminating in a comprehensive capstone project, equipping graduates with advanced expertise in design theory and application. Additionally, the MDes builds upon the growing population of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design by providing a similar and expanded experience at the graduate level. The degree is intended as a precursor for a PhD in Architectural Theory; preparation of an academic appointment, or working at the scale of urban designer, planner or governmental agency. The demand across categories beyond architecture spans diverse industries but the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates 4% growth for architects and architectural managers from 2024 to 2034. The program is unique to Texas with similar programs at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and University of Cincinnati. The program expects to generate revenue in its first year of operation.	In-Person

UH	PhD Music Education	Fall 2026	<p>The University of Houston requests approval to establish a 63-semester-credit-hour Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music Education, designed for completion over three and a half years. This program is intended to replace the existing Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree. The transition requires minimal changes to current admission standards and degree requirements and necessitates only nominal additional university resources. By shifting to a PhD model, the university will offer a more comprehensive education in music education research and pedagogy, attracting high-quality students and bringing added recognition to the Moores School of Music. The program equips students with the skills to conduct publishable research, expertise in post-secondary instruction, and the leadership necessary to contribute to the field through scholarly discourse and professional development. Graduates are prepared for careers as university professors, researchers, high-level administrators, or educational consultants for music industries. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates roughly 100,000 positions are available for postsecondary arts, drama, and music teachers nationally with a 7% job growth rate that significantly exceeds the national average. The Houston metropolitan area currently ranks as the 8th largest employment hub for these professionals. Despite existing programs at Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin, there are currently no PhD offerings in Music Education within the Houston region. The program expects to generate revenue in its fourth year of operation.</p>	In-Person
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## Executive Summary for UHS Board of Regents

**Proposed Program Name:** M.S. in Biological Sciences and Instrumentation (CIP 26.0101)

**Date:** April 27, 2026

### Alignment with UH System Mission and Goals

The proposed Master of Science in Biological Sciences and Instrumentation (MS BSI) directly supports the University of Houston System’s mission to expand educational opportunities, promote student success, and respond to regional and statewide workforce needs. The program is designed to serve UH’s distinctive population, including first-generation students and working professionals seeking advanced, applied scientific credentials beyond a bachelor’s degree.

The MS BSI advances UH priorities related to national competitiveness and workforce alignment by addressing a documented gap in the availability of graduates trained in modern laboratory instrumentation and applied biological sciences. Texas continues to experience strong growth in biotechnology, healthcare research, and diagnostic laboratory activity, particularly in the Houston region. Through its emphasis on hands-on training and professional skill development, the program contributes directly to economic development, innovation, and talent retention in high-impact sectors.

The program further reinforces UH’s role as an anchor institution by leveraging its proximity to the Texas Medical Center to deliver accessible graduate education that produces immediate workforce value.

### Program Description and Curriculum Structure

The MS in Biological Sciences and Instrumentation is a 33-semester-credit-hour graduate program combining advanced biological sciences, intensive instrumentation training, professional skill development, and applied capstone experiences. The curriculum balances scientific rigor with career-ready competencies.

The coursework is classified under three categories: Students complete **(a)** nine semester credit hours of instrumentation-focused coursework providing extensive experience with contemporary laboratory technologies across environmental, molecular, cellular, and protein analysis domains. An additional **(b)** nine semester credit hours is devoted to biological sciences foundations and seminar coursework that strengthens theoretical knowledge, research literacy, and instructional readiness. Last, the program requires **(c)** nine semester credit hours of professional skills coursework in areas such as data analysis, project management, and scientific or grant writing—skills valued across academic, research, and industry settings. In addition to these three areas, all students complete a six-credit capstone through a faculty-supervised research project or a professional

internship. The program supports full-time and part-time pathways and is offered through in-person and hybrid modalities.

### **Workforce and Student Demand**

Labor market indicators demonstrate strong and sustained demand for professionals with graduate-level preparation in biological sciences and laboratory instrumentation. National data show that the majority of workers in biological and medical science occupations hold advanced degrees, and projected job growth in these fields exceeds the national average.

The Office of the Governor has identified biotechnology and life sciences as strategic economic priorities, supported by public and private investment and concentrated regional growth. Employers consistently report a need for graduates who possess not only biological knowledge but also hands-on experience with instrumentation, data analysis, and experimental workflows.

Anticipated demand from UHD's own graduates further supports the program's viability: surveys of UHD life-sciences undergraduates indicate strong interest in pursuing graduate study locally, particularly among students seeking career advancement, higher earnings, or preparation for doctoral or health-profession pathways.

### **Related and Similar Programs**

Comparable graduate programs in the University of Houston System include the M.S. in Biology at the University of Houston and the M.S. in Biological Sciences at UH-Clear Lake. While these programs share a common disciplinary foundation in the biological sciences, they primarily emphasize academic or biomedical study. The proposed M.S. in Biological Sciences and Instrumentation at UHD is intentionally differentiated through its applied focus, training students to master hands-on laboratory instrumentation, experimental design, data analytics, and professional scientific skills.

Rather than duplicating existing offerings, the program complements system and statewide capacity by preparing graduates who are technically job-ready for laboratory, healthcare, public health, and educational roles. The program leverages UHD's strong undergraduate Life Sciences pipeline and serves a largely place-bound student population, expanding access to graduate study in a region with documented workforce shortages. Given unmet labor demand in the biological sciences, the proposed program strengthens the UH System's overall graduate portfolio without adverse impact on existing programs.

### **Faculty and Institutional Resources**

The program will be delivered using existing faculty within the College of Science and Technology, Natural Sciences Department, whose expertise spans molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, ecology, and applied laboratory research. A designated Graduate Program Coordinator will manage admissions, advising, and student progress, supported by current college infrastructure.

The program will capitalize on UHD's Science and Technology Building (opened Fall of 2019), which houses approximately 60,000 square feet of state-of-the-art laboratories. UHD's Library has confirmed sufficient holdings to support graduate-level research. External partnerships with the Texas Medical Center and industry partners further enhance experiential learning opportunities.

### **Statewide and Regional Need**

The MS in Biological Sciences and Instrumentation responds directly to Texas' need for a technically skilled science workforce capable of supporting biotechnology, healthcare, public health, and research enterprises. By producing graduates with applied laboratory expertise, analytical competencies, and professional skills, the program supports statewide economic diversification and innovation priorities.

The program strengthens the UH System's commitment to workforce-responsive graduate education and positions UHD to play a critical role in sustaining the scientific and technological capacity of the Houston region and the State of Texas.

**PRO FORMA FOR MS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND INSTRUMENTATION**

				Operating Years					
FY2027		Year 0	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031		
			Fall26	Fall27	Fall28	Fall29	Fall30		
<b>Enrollments</b>									
Cohort 1			14	10	-	-	-		
Cohort 2				16	12	-	-		
Cohort 3					18	13	-		
Cohort 4						21	16		
Cohort 5							25		
Cohort 6									
Total			14	26	30	34	41		
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>		Salary	% effort	Year 0	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Rachna Sadana		144,397	15%	-	21,659	22,093	22,535	22,985	23,445
Lisa Morano		99,526	25%	-	24,882	25,379	25,887	26,405	26,933
Yuan Yuan Kang		80,499	11%	-	8,855	9,032	9,213	9,397	9,585
Adriana Visbal		70,176	11%	-	7,719	7,874	7,719	7,874	8,031
Pablo Delclos		68,080	11%	-	7,489	7,639	7,791	7,947	8,106
Position 6		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal		462,678	73%	-	70,604	72,016	73,145	74,608	76,100
<b>Faculty FTE</b>					0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>									
Department Business Administrator		75,000	5%	-	3,750	3,825	3,902	3,980	4,059
Advisor		45,000	5%	-	2,250	2,295	2,341	2,388	2,435
Position 3		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Position 4		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Position 5		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Position 6		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate Students		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal		120,000	10%	-	6,000	6,120	6,242	6,367	6,495
<b>Staff FTE</b>					0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Total Salaries				-	76,604	78,136	79,387	80,975	82,594
Benefits @ 30%	30%			-	22,981	23,441	23,816	24,292	24,778
Total Personnel				-	99,585	101,577	103,203	105,267	107,373
<b>Non-Personnel</b>									
Marketing/Recruiting				-	10,000	5,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships				-	9,000	18,000	21,000	24,000	36,000
Annual maintenance & operations				-	5,000	5,000	7,000	7,500	7,500
Library and Information Technology				-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Accreditation				-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities				-	-	-	-	-	-
Laboratory and other equipment				-	25,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Other				-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-Personnel				-	51,000	50,000	42,000	44,500	56,500
Allocated to university operations	10%			-	9,738	22,830	25,612	36,755	41,624
Total Annual Expense				\$ -	\$ 160,323	\$ 174,407	\$ 170,815	\$ 186,522	\$ 205,496
<b>Revenue</b>									
Formula Funding Generated				-	-	55,855	55,855	154,267	154,267
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula				-	-	(8,400)	(8,400)	(23,200)	(23,200)
Subtotal: State General Revenue				-	-	47,455	47,455	131,067	131,067
* UHD Tuition and Fees					108,976	202,384	233,520	264,656	319,144
Allocated to set aside per student					(11,600)	(21,544)	(24,858)	(28,172)	(33,973)
Total Revenue from Enrollment					97,376	228,296	256,117	367,550	416,238
Philanthropy and other External Revenue					-	-	-	-	-
Net Revenue					97,376	228,296	256,117	367,550	416,238
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (62,947)	\$ 53,889	\$ 85,302	\$ 181,028	\$ 210,742
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ (62,947)	\$ (9,058)	\$ 76,244	\$ 257,272	\$ 468,014

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

# **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS**

## **UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

### **Congruence with System Goals and University Mission**

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences proposes a new 120-semester-credit-hour Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). This program aligns with the University of Houston's mission to serve as an engine for economic development by contributing to a highly skilled and adaptable workforce. As modern societies grow increasingly complex, this interdisciplinary degree provides students with the humanistic and social scientific frameworks necessary to understand the "big picture." By bridging these three disciplines, the program supports the university's commitment to academic excellence and produces graduates capable of enhancing the economic growth and competitiveness of the Houston region and the State of Texas.

### **Program Description**

The PPE program is an interdisciplinary major designed for completion in four years. The curriculum is structured to teach students how to think as economists regarding scarcity and allocation, as political scientists regarding the stability of political institutions, and as philosophers regarding the moral principles that justify social choices. The major requires a total of 36 credit hours, with at least 30 hours at the 3000-level or above. To ensure programmatic efficiency, the degree leverages existing faculty and course synergies. At most, 8.33% of the total credit hours consist of newly created coursework, specifically a senior capstone course designed to integrate the three disciplinary pillars through a final project or cumulative portfolio.

### **Student and Job Market Demand**

Graduates will be equipped with a versatile combination of "hard" data analysis skills and "soft" interpersonal abilities. The program prepares students for high-demand professional roles including financial management, management analysis, and market research. Additionally, the degree serves as a natural gateway for students entering the legal field or pursuing graduate work in public administration and management. The curriculum is designed to produce adaptable professionals who can navigate the intersection of market dynamics, political institutions, and moral frameworks.

### **Program Duplication**

The B.A. in PPE will be the first program of its kind at a public university in Texas, filling a significant geographic and institutional gap. While three private institutions in the state—Criswell College, Dallas Baptist University, and Austin College—offer PPE degrees, the programs at Criswell and Dallas Baptist are distinguished by an explicitly Christian orientation. The University of Houston's program provides a secular alternative more comparable to national models at R1 research institutions such as George Mason University and Georgia State University. Furthermore, there are currently no PPE programs located within the Houston metropolitan area, providing the University of Houston with a unique market share in the region.

### **Faculty Resources**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

The program will be delivered by existing core faculty within the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Economics. These faculty members are expected to dedicate approximately 50% of their time to the degree program. Because the curriculum relies heavily on established coursework and infrastructure, no new faculty hires or nominal additional university resources are required for implementation within the first five years. Administrative oversight will be managed through the Department of Philosophy, utilizing existing college resources and library holdings which have been confirmed as sufficient to support the degree.

**State or National Need**

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projections through 2033, there is substantial national demand for the competencies provided by a PPE degree. This includes 50,000 or more new positions expected for financial managers, management analysts, and market research analysts. The BLS also anticipates between 10,000 and 50,000 new openings for financial and investment analysts, operations research analysts, and human resource managers. Furthermore, the legal field is projected to add over 10,000 new positions by 2033. By addressing these needs, the program responds to the requirement for a technically skilled workforce capable of supporting the increasingly complex social and economic systems of Texas.

**PRO FORMA FOR BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics**

FY2027			Year 0	FY2027	FY2028	Operating Years		FY2030	FY2031
				Fall26	Fall27	FY2029	FY2029	Fall29	Fall30
						Fall28			
<b>Enrollments</b>									
Cohort 1				15	14	12		10	
Cohort 2					16	14		12	10
Cohort 3						20		16	12
Cohort 4								20	16
Cohort 5									20
Cohort 6									
Total				15	30	46		58	58
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>									
	Salary	% effort	Year 0	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Professor - David Philips	133,000	50%		66,500	67,830	69,187		70,570	71,982
Professor - Daniel Coates	120,112	50%		60,056	61,257	62,482		63,732	65,007
Professor - Dietrich Vollrath	240,000	50%		120,000	122,400	124,848		127,345	129,892
Position 4				-	-	-		-	-
Position 5				-	-	-		-	-
Position 6				-	-	-		-	-
Adjuncts				-	-	-		-	-
Subtotal	493,112	150%	-	246,556	251,487	256,517		261,647	266,880
<b>Faculty FTE</b>									
				1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>									
Business Administrator	63,000	10%		6,300	6,426	6,555		6,686	6,819
Position 2				-	-	-		-	-
Position 3				-	-	-		-	-
Position 4				-	-	-		-	-
Position 5				-	-	-		-	-
Position 6				-	-	-		-	-
Graduate Students				-	-	-		-	-
Subtotal	63,000	10%	-	6,300	6,426	6,555		6,686	6,819
<b>Staff FTE</b>									
				0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1
Total Salaries			-	252,856	257,913	263,071		268,333	273,699
Benefits @ 20.5%			-	51,835	52,872	53,930		55,008	56,108
Total Personnel			-	304,691	310,785	317,001		323,341	329,808
<b>Non-Personnel</b>									
Marketing/Recruiting			1,500						
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships									
Annual maintenance & operations									
Library and Information Technology									
Accreditation									
Facilities									
Laboratory and other equipment									
Other									
Total Non-Personnel			1,500						
Allocated to university operations	10%			14,450	30,026	45,440		59,891	59,891
Total Annual Expense			\$ 1,500	\$ 319,141	\$ 340,812	\$ 362,441		\$ 383,233	\$ 389,699
<b>Revenue</b>									
Formula Funding Generated				-	29,267	29,267		104,386	104,386
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula				-	(18,000)	(18,000)		(64,200)	(64,200)
Subtotal: State General Revenue				-	11,267	11,267		40,186	40,186
UH Tuition and Fees				162,837	325,674	499,367		629,636	629,636
Allocated to set aside per student				(18,338)	(36,676)	(56,237)		(70,908)	(70,908)
Total Revenue from Enrollment				144,499	300,265	454,397		598,915	598,915
Philanthropy and other External Revenue				-	-	-		-	-
Net Revenue				144,499	300,265	454,397		598,915	598,915
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)			(1,500)	\$ (174,643)	\$ (40,547)	\$ 91,956		\$ 215,682	\$ 209,216
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)			(1,500)	\$ (176,143)	\$ (216,690)	\$ (124,734)		\$ 90,949	\$ 300,164

College Business Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniel Chang, Program Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vivianne Do, Executive Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES**

## **UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

### **Congruence with System Goals and University Mission**

The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design proposes a new 30-semester-credit-hour Master of Design Studies (MDes) to replace the existing Master of Arts in Architectural Studies degree. This transition aligns with contemporary industry standards by offering a more versatile and recognizable credential that attracts a diverse cohort of students interested in specialized design research. The MDes supports the university's mission by providing an advanced research platform that works across the expertise and diversity of design fields, fostering innovative solutions for contemporary conditions. Establishing this program builds upon the growing population of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, providing an expanded experience at the graduate level while serving as a precursor for PhD pathways.

### **Program Description**

The Master of Design Studies is an advanced research degree focusing on multi-disciplinary thinking centered on the built environment. The curriculum is rooted in "multidisciplinary bridging," offering a two-semester, 30-unit open curricular lattice that allows students to individualize their degree plans based on specific topical interests. Students can pursue concentrations in areas such as Architecture, Sustainability, Urban Design, Historic Preservation, and Media and Fabrication. The program requires 21 credit hours of elective study and 9 credit hours dedicated to a final capstone project. This project serves as the culminating design experience, evaluated by external experts on criteria including concept, design, and technical proficiency.

### **Student and Job Market Demand**

Demand for the Master of Design Studies is driven by a restructuring of the college's non-professional graduate offerings to provide a more versatile and recognizable credential. The program builds upon the growing enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, which serves as a direct internal feeder pipeline. Additionally, the degree specifically attracts a new target student population seeking a non-professional academic "on-ramp" for a future PhD in Architectural Theory. Graduates are prepared for advanced roles including academic appointments, urban design, planning, or positions within governmental agencies.

### **Program Duplication**

The Master of Design Studies will provide a unique intra-disciplinary offering with no expected duplication in the state of Texas. While comparable programs exist nationally at institutions like the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the University of Cincinnati, there are no directly similar programs within the region.

### **Faculty Resources**

The program utilizes the existing faculty and established coursework of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. Because it draws from across the college's existing expertise, it requires no dedicated "stand-alone" faculty or new hires. Administrative

**MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

responsibilities will be managed by the Director of Graduate Studies, who will dedicate 25% of their time to the program. No new faculty hires are anticipated or required within the first five years of implementation.

**State or National Need**

There is a documented and growing need for leaders capable of addressing global challenges through diverse and broad design thinking. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) labor market data, there is a current undersupply of graduates in this field within the Gulf Coast region. While demand spans diverse industries, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 4% growth for architects and architectural managers from 2024 to 2034.

**PRO FORMA FOR MDES**

		FY2028		Operating Years					
				Year 0	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032
					Fall27	Fall28	Fall29	Fall30	Fall31
<b>Enrollments</b>									
Cohort 1					5				
Cohort 2						7			
Cohort 3							7		
Cohort 4								7	
Cohort 5									7
Cohort 6									
Total					5	7	7	7	7
<b>Expenses</b>									
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>									
	Salary	% effort		Year 0	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032
Position 1	100,000	10%			10,000	10,200	10,404	10,612	10,824
Position 2	100,000	5%			5,000	5,100	5,202	5,306	5,412
Position 3	100,000	5%			5,000	5,100	5,202	5,306	5,412
Position 4	100,000	5%			5,000	5,100	5,202	5,306	5,412
Position 5	100,000	5%			5,000	5,100	5,202	5,306	5,412
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Adjuncts					-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	500,000	30%		-	30,000	30,600	31,212	31,836	32,473
<b>Faculty FTE</b>									
					0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>									
Position 1	50,000	5%			2,500	2,550	2,601	2,653	2,706
Position 2					-	-	-	-	-
Position 3					-	-	-	-	-
Position 4					-	-	-	-	-
Position 5					-	-	-	-	-
Position 6					-	-	-	-	-
Graduate Students					-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	50,000	5%		-	2,500	2,550	2,601	2,653	2,706
<b>Staff FTE</b>									
					0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total Salaries				-	32,500	33,150	33,813	34,489	35,179
Benefits @ 20.5%				-	6,663	6,796	6,932	7,070	7,212
Total Personnel				-	39,163	39,946	40,745	41,560	42,391
<b>Non-Personnel</b>									
Marketing/Recruiting					1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships					-	-	-	-	-
Annual maintenance & operations					-	-	-	-	-
Library and Information Technology					-	-	-	-	-
Accreditation					-	-	-	-	-
Facilities					-	-	-	-	-
Laboratory and other equipment					-	-	-	-	-
Other					-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-Personnel				-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Allocated to university operations	10%				7,958	11,142	17,074	17,074	17,074
Total Annual Expense				\$ -	\$ 48,121	\$ 52,087	\$ 58,818	\$ 59,633	\$ 60,464
<b>Revenue</b>									
Formula Funding Generated					-	-	69,819	69,819	69,819
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula					-	-	(10,500)	(10,500)	(10,500)
Subtotal: State General Revenue					-	-	59,319	59,319	59,319
UH Tuition and Fees					88,827	124,358	124,358	124,358	124,358
Allocated to set aside per student					(9,243)	(12,941)	(12,941)	(12,941)	(12,941)
Total Revenue from Enrollment					79,584	111,417	170,736	170,736	170,736
Philanthropy and other External Revenue					-	-	-	-	-
Net Revenue					79,584	111,417	170,736	170,736	170,736
Net Annual Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ 31,463	\$ 59,329	\$ 111,918	\$ 111,103	\$ 110,272
Cumulative Gain/(Loss)				-	\$ 31,463	\$ 90,792	\$ 202,710	\$ 313,813	\$ 424,084

College Business Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniel Chang, Program Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vivianne Do, Executive Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MUSIC EDUCATION**

## **UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

### **Congruence with System Goals and University Mission**

The Katherine G. McGovern College of the Arts proposes a new PhD in Music Education to replace the existing Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree. This transition aligns with professional standards, as the PhD is considered the standard doctorate in the field. The degree plan is designed to provide a more comprehensive education in research and pedagogy, which better reflects the requirements of the National Association of Schools of Music. Establishing this program will help recruit high-quality students both locally and nationally while bringing increased international recognition to the Moores School of Music and the University of Houston.

### **Program Description**

The proposed curriculum emphasizes comprehensive development in advanced research methodologies and critical engagement with historical and philosophical perspectives in music education. The program requires a total of 63 semester credit hours, which includes 24 hours of core courses, 12 hours in a minor area, 12 hours of electives, 6 hours of prescribed electives, and 9 hours dedicated to the dissertation. The dissertation serves as the capstone and must be of publishable quality for a top-tier journal, offering students a choice between a traditional book-length manuscript or a "three-study" model consisting of three research papers ready for peer-reviewed submission. This rigorous training prepares students to generate original research, excel in collegiate-level instruction, and assume leadership roles in educational environments.

### **Student and Job Market Demand**

Student demand for doctoral music education at the University of Houston has increased steadily, with enrollment rising from a single student in 2020 to 10 students in 2025. Faculty report that some prospective students have declined to matriculate in the past specifically because the current degree offering was not a PhD. The primary career path for graduates is a faculty position at a university or college, particularly for tenure-track roles where a doctorate is a standard requirement. Additionally, the degree prepares graduates for roles as fine arts administrators, educational consultants, or leaders within non-profit arts organizations.

### **Program Duplication**

While there are three other institutions in Texas that grant a PhD in Music Education—Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin—none of these offerings are located in the southeastern part of the state. The University of Houston's program would be the only one of its kind in the region, filling a significant geographic gap in doctoral-level music teacher education.

### **Faculty Resources**

The program will be delivered by existing faculty members who hold PhDs in Music Education from diverse and prestigious institutions. These faculty members will dedicate between 12% and 13% of their time to the program and maintain a student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 2.5:1.

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MUSIC EDUCATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

To support program quality, junior faculty will receive formal mentorship and resources regarding dissertation supervision, written feedback procedures, and student independence. No new faculty hires are anticipated or required within the first five years of implementation.

**State or National Need**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there are nearly 100,000 positions available for postsecondary arts, drama, and music teachers. The Houston metropolitan area is a critical hub for this profession, currently ranking as the 8th largest employment center for these teachers in the United States. Projections indicate a 7% job growth rate for postsecondary teachers, a figure that is much higher than the average for all occupations. With a median salary of \$93,440, these positions represent a stable and growing career path for graduates of research-intensive doctoral programs.

**PRO FORMA FOR PhD in Music Ed**

		Operating Years																			
FY2028		Year 0	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032														
			Fall27	Fall28	Fall29	Fall30	Fall31														
<b>Enrollments</b>																					
Cohort 1			9	6	6	3															
Cohort 2				3	3	3															
Cohort 3					3	3															
Cohort 4							3														
Cohort 5								3													
Cohort 6									3												
<b>Total</b>			9	9	12	12	12														
<b>Expenses</b>																					
<b>Faculty (9 month)</b>																					
	Salary	% effort	Year 0	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032													
Julie Derges	88,944	12%		10,673	10,887	11,104	11,327	11,553													
Loneka Wilkinson	81,560	12%		9,787	9,983	10,183	10,386	10,594													
Cory Meals	76,799	12%		9,216	9,400	9,588	9,780	9,976													
Emily McGinnis	63,607	13%		8,269	8,434	8,603	8,775	8,951													
				-	-	-	-	-													
				-	-	-	-	-													
<b>Subtotal</b>	310,910	49%	-	37,945	38,704	39,478	40,268	41,073	45,724.05	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####							
<b>Faculty FTE</b>																					
				0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48													
<b>Staff (12 month)</b>																					
Stacia Dunn - Program Dir 1	66,264	2%		1,325	1,352	1,379	1,406	1,435													
Pepper Canada - DBA	71,033	1%		710	725	739	754	769													
Morgan Kendrick - Program Director 3	90,000	1%		900	918	936	955	974													
Sarah Hardin - Program Director 1	59,000	5%		2,950	3,009	3,069	3,131	3,193													
				-	-	-	-	-													
				-	-	-	-	-													
<b>Subtotal</b>	286,297	9%	-	5,886	6,003	6,123	6,246	6,371	7,092.16	7,234.00	7,378.68	7,526.26	7,676.78								
<b>Staff FTE</b>																					
				0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09													
Total Salaries			-	43,831	44,707	45,602	46,514	47,444													
Benefits @ 20.5%			-	8,985	9,165	9,348	9,535	9,726													
<b>Total Personnel</b>			-	52,816	53,873	54,950	56,049	57,170													
<b>Non-Personnel</b>																					
Marketing/Recruiting			-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000													
Scholarships & Tuition Assistantships			-	24,400	24,400	24,400	24,400	24,400													
Annual maintenance & operations			-	-	-	-	-	-													
Library and Information Technology			-	-	-	-	-	-													
Accreditation			-	-	-	-	-	-													
Facilities			-	-	-	-	-	-													
Laboratory and other equipment			-	-	-	-	-	-													
Other			-	-	-	-	-	-													
<b>Total Non-Personnel</b>			-	25,400	25,400	25,400	25,400	25,400													
Allocated to university operations		10%		4,019	4,019	4,078	4,078	4,078													
<b>Total Annual Expense</b>			\$ -	\$ 82,235	\$ 83,291	\$ 84,428	\$ 85,527	\$ 86,601													
<b>Revenue</b>																					
Formula Funding Generated			-	-	-	93,944	93,944	125,259													
Statutory Tuition Applied to Formula			-	-	-	(6,750)	(6,750)	(9,000)													
<b>Subtotal: State General Revenue</b>			-	-	-	87,194	87,194	116,259													
UH Tuition and Fees				43,200	43,200	57,600	57,600	57,600													
Allocated to set aside per student				(3,014)	(3,014)	(4,019)	(4,019)	(4,019)													
<b>Total Revenue from Enrollment</b>				40,186	40,186	140,775	140,775	169,840													
Philanthropy and other External Revenue				-	-	-	-	-													
<b>Net Revenue</b>				40,186	40,186	140,775	140,775	169,840													
<b>Net Annual Gain/(Loss)</b>			-	\$ (42,049)	\$ (43,106)	\$ 46,348	\$ 45,249	\$ 70,286													
<b>Cumulative Gain/(Loss)</b>			-	\$ (42,049)	\$ (85,155)	\$ (38,807)	\$ 6,441	\$ 76,727													

College Business Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daniel Chang, Program Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vivianne Do, Executive Director, Office of the Provost Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**ITEM:** Request for Approval of Program Closures – University of Houston System

**DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:**

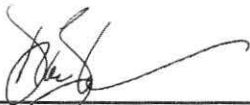
**SUMMARY:**

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:**

**FISCAL NOTE:** None

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

**COMPONENT:** University of Houston System



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

Diane Z. Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/14/2026

**DATE**



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

Renu Khator

\_\_\_\_\_  
5/18/24

**DATE**

## University of Houston System Board of Regents

Academic, Research and Student Success Committee Meeting

May 21, 2026

Degree Program Consolidations and Closure Details

### **University of Houston**

Degree Program Consolidations

#### Master of Science (MS) in Pharmaceutical Sciences

MS in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy

MS in Pharmaceutics

#### Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Pharmaceutical Sciences

PHD in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy

PHD in Pharmaceutics

#### Master of Laws (LLM)

LLM in Intellectual Property & Information Law

LLM in Health Law

LLM in Tax Law

LLM in International Law

LLM in Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Law

#### Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences

The College of Pharmacy requests approval to close the MS in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy and MS in Pharmaceutics. These closures are part of a planned consolidation that has been underway for several years, merging the legacy departmental graduate programs into the unified Pharmaceutical Sciences MS and PhD programs. The consolidation has been completed, and these closures formalize the administrative action to remove the legacy program from the inventory.

The Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy MS and Pharmaceutics MS programs have been effectively superseded by the consolidated Pharmaceutical Sciences MS program. There are no students currently enrolled in either program. All curriculum, faculty, and research activities associated with these discipline areas have been integrated into the Pharmaceutical Sciences MS program, which includes tracks and concentrations that encompass the subject matter. The programs will be discontinued in 2027.

### Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences

The College of Pharmacy requests approval to close the PHD in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy and PHD in Pharmaceutics. These closures are part of a planned consolidation that has been underway for several years, merging the legacy departmental graduate programs into the unified Pharmaceutical Sciences MS and PhD programs. The consolidation has been completed, and these closures formalize the administrative action to remove the legacy program from the inventory.

The Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy PHD and Pharmaceutics PHD programs have been effectively superseded by the consolidated Pharmaceutical Sciences PHD program. There are currently two students remaining in each program who are progressing toward degree completion under individualized plans of study. A teach-out plan is in place to ensure these students complete their degrees in a timely manner. All curriculum, faculty, and research activities associated with these discipline areas have been integrated into the Pharmaceutical Sciences PHD program, which includes tracks and concentrations that encompass the subject matter. The programs will be discontinued in 2027.

### Master of Laws

The proposal is to consolidate the LLM in Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Law; LLM in Health Law; LLM in International Law; LLM in Tax Law; and LLM in Intellectual Property and Information Law; in separate concentrations under a new umbrella degree program, Master of Laws (with CIP code 22.0201). The programs will be discontinued in 2026.

The newly constituted Master of Laws degree program will not admit undergraduates. Its sole purpose is to serve as a housing mechanism for the consolidated LLM degree programs as concentrations, each of which will continue to require a prior JD or foreign law degree for admission. The concentrations will be designated on the diploma.

### **University of Houston**

#### Degree Program Closure

### Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

The college requests the closure of the BA in Religious Studies, which is low enrolling and is not on pace to either meet or exceed the THECB minimum of 25 graduates over five years. This lower-than-expected enrollment trend is consistent with what has been found across the state for religious studies.

There are currently 15 students in the program (eight freshmen, four juniors, and three

seniors), around five of which appear to be either pursuing other degree programs in practice or are not progressing in the degree for different reasons. The last date students were admitted to the program was January 2026. The program will be discontinued in 2032. It is important to note that the religious studies minor will continue.

## **University of Houston System Board of Regents**

Academic, Research and Student Success Committee Meeting

May 21, 2026

Certificate and Minor Closure Details

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

Certificate and Minor Closures Details

#### Graduate Certificates

- College of Education
  - Instructional Coach

#### Minors

- College of Education
  - Addictions Counseling
  - Instructional Practices
- College of Human Sciences and Humanities
  - Africana Studies
  - Middle Eastern Studies
  - Public Service Leadership

The University of Houston-Clear Lake Office of the Provost has performed an audit of certificates and minors that have (a) been in operation for at least five years and (b) have zero enrollment and zero awards over the most recent five years. The closures have been recommended by the respective College Deans.

### **University of Houston-Downtown**

Certificate and Minor Closures Details

#### Graduate Certificates

- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
  - Graduate Certificate in History
  - Composition Studies Graduate Certificate

#### Minors

- College of Sciences and Technology
  - Applied Physics
  - Bioinformatics
  - Environmental Sciences
  - Geology
  - Quantitative Methods in Research
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
  - Critical Race Studies
  - Religious Studies

- College of Business
  - Security Management

## **University of Houston**

### Certificate and Minor Closures Details

#### Graduate Certificates

- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
  - Global Energy, Development, and Sustainability
- College of Education
  - Master Technology Teacher
  - Reading Specialist
- Cullen College of Engineering
  - Advanced Subsea Engineering
  - Advanced Subsea Engineering (UH Extend)
  - Cognitive Science
  - Process Engineering & Modeling
  - Corrosion Control and Management
  - Corrosion Engineering
  - Global Climate, Energy, and Environment (UH Extend)
  - Process Safety Engineering (UH Extend)
- Hobby School of Public Affairs
  - Public Policy-Energy Policy
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
  - Interactive Game Development
  - Materials Science
  - Mathematical Statistics

#### Undergraduate Certificates

- Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership
  - Commercial Beverage Management

#### Minor

- Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts
  - Music
  - Theatre

- College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
  - French for the Business-Related Professions
  - German Culture and Professional Studies
  - Greek
  - Latin
  
- College of Education
  - Reading and Language Arts Education
  
- Cullen College of Engineering
  - Nano Engineering
  - Geomatics
  
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
  - Computer Science Systems
  
- College of Pharmacy
  - Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

As per University of Houston System Board of Regents Policies, Section III – Academic and Student Success, 21.14 Curriculum Review, certificates and minors have been added under the scope of low-producing programs.

In first steps to compliance with this new policy, the Office of the Provost has performed an audit of certificates and minors that have (a) been in operation for at least five years and (b) have zero enrollment and zero awards over the most recent five years.

All closures have been approved by the respective Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

ITEM: Faculty Presentation – University of Houston

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:

Presentation by Dr. Colin Haile, Research Associate Professor of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, on his work at the University of Houston in developing a fentanyl vaccine to combat opioid use disorder.

SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION:

FISCAL NOTE: None

RECOMMENDATION/  
ACTION REQUESTED: Information

COMPONENT: University of Houston



PRESIDENT

Renu Khator



DATE



SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR

Diane Z. Chase

05/14/2026

DATE



CHANCELLOR

Renu Khator



DATE

# University of Houston System Board of Regents Meeting

May 21, 2026

## Faculty Presentation

### **Dr. Colin Haile**

*Professor*

Psychology Department

Dr. Colin Haile is a research associate professor of psychology at University of Houston and a founding member of the university's Drug Discovery Institute. His work centers on substance use disorders, addiction science, and the development of innovative treatments aimed at addressing the ongoing opioid epidemic. Dr. Haile is nationally recognized for his pioneering research on an anti-fentanyl vaccine designed to prevent fentanyl from crossing the blood-brain barrier, reducing both its euphoric effects and its potential to cause overdose.

With a multidisciplinary background in behavioral health, neuroscience, and pharmacology, Dr. Haile has dedicated much of his career to improving treatment outcomes for individuals struggling with opioid use disorder. His research explores how vaccines and other therapeutic approaches can support long-term recovery and help prevent relapse. Under his leadership, the University of Houston's fentanyl vaccine research has gained national and international attention as a promising advancement in the fight against synthetic opioid addiction and overdose deaths.

In addition to his academic and research roles, Dr. Haile serves as a scientific adviser and co-founder of ARMR Sciences, a biotechnology company working to advance the fentanyl vaccine toward clinical use. Through collaborations with researchers, healthcare professionals, and industry partners, he continues to contribute to groundbreaking efforts that could significantly impact public health and addiction treatment nationwide.

Dr. Haile's work reflects the University of Houston's commitment to innovation, interdisciplinary research, and addressing critical societal challenges through science and discovery.