UHCL Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2026

Call to order and Opening Remarks:

Dr. Cotten welcomed all members and thanked them for their willingness to serve on Faculty Council. Dr. Cotten reminded all present that the meeting is being live-streamed and that the microphones in the room are operational.

Dr. Cotton welcomed President Walker to the meeting and invited him to make his remarks.

Presidents Report:

Dr. Walker greeted all in the room and thanked them for their service on the Faculty Council for this academic year. He shared the following key points with the council:

- Everyone at the university has really 'hit the ground running' with a very busy academic year.
- President Walker testified in front of the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) on 9/28/26. The budgetary ask on behalf of UHCL included a request to please restore the 3% cut issued by the governor in the interim as it would impact special items funding (EIH, CADD, STEP and downward expansion funding). In addition, there was a $4M request for a new center for Space Flight and Translational Health Innovation to build on the work being done by the current HHPI. Additionally, the UHCL funding request includes a $183M CCAP request from UHCL to help support facilities including: a STEM II building, Clinical Space for the Psychological Service Clinic, the CADD Clinic at Pearland, and repairs to the Delta Building.
    - After the testimony before the LBB, President Walker, Provost Abdelrahman, and others from UHCL met with the governor's staff, the lieutenant governor's staff, Senator Paul Bettencort's office, the staff of Speaker Burrows, and more to discuss UHCL and our legislative appropriations request.
- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has made a recommendation on performance-based funding to the Texas Legislature for higher education in the state. President Walker indicated university systems and presidents are advocating for this if it is additive to the current funding, does not decrease overall funding.
- The THECB report on the evaluation of the Texas Core is coming soon; all indications are that it will likely change the Core from 42 SCH's to 30 SCH's.
- The Governor asked THECB to create a committee to craft a 90 hour bachelors degree possibility in the state of Texas. This report from THECB is due in December.
- The State of the University will be on 10/14/26 at 10am, all are invited to attend. Those who could not attend, can view the recording here.
- This fall UHCL extended its *Hawk Promise Scholarship* to First Time in College (FTIC) students whose family incomes are at or below 65,000/year. In the fall of 2027, that will be extended to FTIC and transfer students and the allowable family income will be 100,000/year.
- Final enrollment numbers are due shortly; at this point in time FTIC numbers are up 17% to 489 students; transfer students increased by 7.5%; continuing Undergraduate students are down 4% and graduate students are down also.

The president ended his report by sharing how nice it is to have new energy on campus with the students' return. He highlighted the new Student Government President, Ms. Kenya Johnson. There were two questions

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from the audience: one about international student enrollment numbers mentioned and one about funding for the university based upon semester credit hours. President Walker wrapped up by again thanking all of the council members and inviting everyone to the State of the University next week.

Provost Report:

Dr. Abdelrahman began his report by thanking Dr. Walker for his remarks. The provost shared the following points with those in attendance:

- He is officially in his 97th day at UHCL and shared a "First 90 Day Report" in this week's academic affairs newsletter. He invited everyone to review that report and share any comments or ideas with him.
- The Engineering Technology degree on the agenda today was originally intended to be submitted for consideration in 2024 but had delays in launching. Provost Abdelrahman shared his appreciation for the CSE faculty who helped finalize the planning and the curriculum committee review of the degree proposal.
- He is working closely with Dr. Erick Tack to ensure we are doing all we can to advance Student Success. They are currently digging into our approach to developmental education, how we support students being prepared to succeed academically, and help them accomplish their goals.
- Everyone is, of course, watching THECB for the report on the Texas Core and the potential for 90-Hour bachelors degrees. He is asking folks to begin to simply think about potential changes that might be made, which degrees might be best suited for changes, and to do some early thinking about these potential policy changes so that we are not caught-off guard when decisions are made at the state level.
- He shared that he recently attended a BAHEP Advisory Committee on Aerospace Committee meeting and it was very exciting. Everyone in the room, small and large companies, were excited about the possibilities of space and monetizing space. He encouraged everyone, not just science and engineering degree programs, to think about how their work and their programs can connect to space.
- The FRSF funding cycle for the fall was cancelled. There will be a cycle in the spring. The deadline will be March 15th for applications. There will be more information coming, but there will be some changes to the call, including the possibility for large grants to help faculty build toward external funding. There will be close to $100,000 available in the March call. He encouraged everyone to consider these as seed funds and to always be thinking about what kinds of external funding might be available for your work, that ORSP could help you to apply for.

The provost ended his report thanking the council for their work and encouraging faculty to reach out to him via the link in his weekly newsletter, or directly, with ideas or comments.

Curriculum Committee:

Dr. Huss-Keeler presented the following proposals for discussion and consideration of endorsement, coming from the Curriculum Committee as endorsed:

1. **Academic Honesty**: This policy was reviewed last year, sent to UHSystem Legal, sent back to committee, back to legal and is now back before the full Faculty Council. There was a review of the changes and edits made to the policy. There was extensive discussion by FC about the list of potential strategies provided under the "Instructor Responsibility" portion o the policy. In this discussion the list was changed from numbered to bulleted and the introducing paragraph for this portion of the policy was edited on the floor. There was also a discussion about removing one of the suggested strategies as it was particularly challenging for faculty across a variety of disciplines, this example was removed

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on the floor. The question was called on the policy as amended and presented – the vote passed 20 in favor , 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

2. **Grade Change Annotation Policy:** This policy was last reviewed in 1999 and is no longer relevant or accurate. It is the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee to recommend Retiring the policy. The question was called on the policy retirement. There was a call for objections to the retirement recommendation, and the Grade Change Annotation policy retirement was endorsed by unanimous consent (24 in support).
3. **Program Review Policy**: This policy was updated to include additional definitions and to accurately reflect what is required by THECB for the Program Reviews. The question was called on the policy as presented; There was a call for any objections, hearing none, the vote to endorse the Program Review Policy was endorsed by unanimous consent.
4. **Combined Parallel Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees**: This policy outlines the requirements and expectations relating to cross-listing courses. There was a discussion of the need for separate syllabi, different learning objectives, books and assignments across the graduate and undergraduate sections of a cross-listed course. The recommendation was made to keep the policy as it is and simply renew without changes. The question was called and there was a call for any objections to approval, hearing none, the policy was endorsed by unanimous consent.
5. **Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology**: Associate Dean David Garrison was asked to present the degree to the council. This is a new BS Degree proposal from CSE that has been in development since 2022, under Dean Miguel Gonzalez. The primary driver is to have an 'off ramp' for students in Mechanical Engineering who might decide not to complete the degree. This degree is more applied and includes more labs, different course requirements (including more lower-level courses), etc. CSE is expecting to see some students come to UHCL specifically for this degree, some move out of pre-engineering, and some move out of mechanical and aerospace into the Engineering Technology degree. The degree was designed to keep current UHCL students at the university and ensure they have a marketable major without losing any credits. If the student has passed a more advanced version of a course in the Engineering Technology degree, that higher level course will apply to their degree. This degree requires creating 12 new courses and is only 36% new content, which means we will need to submit to THECB, but not to SACS for approval. The question was called on endorsing the BS in Engineering Technology Degree and the vote passed 19 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Dr. Jacobs presented the following proposals for discussion and consideration of endorsement, coming from the Faculty Affairs Committee as endorsed:

1. **Faculty Dismissal Policy:** This policy is coming back to FC after UHSystem Legal made changes since endorsed by FC in May of 2026. The discussion included a review of the policy edit defining and creating "Constructive Resignation" as well as the changes made to "Summary Dismissal". Stephen Cotten was asked to check with UHSystem legal should someone experience a tragedy (kidnapping, hospitalization, etc.) out of country and not be able to notify the university within 30 days; would faculty then be have their employment restored if the lack of notification of the university for 30 days or more was no fault of their own. Stephen agreed to report back. The question was called on endorsement of the policy – the vote passed 20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.
2. **Faculty Misconduct Policy:** This policy is coming back to FC after UHSystem Legal made change since endorsed by FC in May of 2026. Changes include, updates to the deadlines within the policy and references to other corresponding or related policies were added. A clarification was made to an example provided in the policy to prevent misinterpretation. The question was called on endorsement

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of the policy; There was a call for any objections, hearing none, the vote to endorse the Faculty Misconduct policy was endorsed by unanimous consent.

Dr. Jacobs encouraged everyone to provide comments on the NonTenure Track Policy prior to the Faculty Affairs Committee on Friday.

Research Committee:

Dr. Sutherland presented the following proposal for discussion and consideration of endorsement, coming from the Research Committee as endorsed:

1. Faculty Engagement Policy: This policy was endorsed in the Spring semester, but UHSystem legal made very few edits to what was reviewed at that time. There was discussion of edits to the policy, including adding a numbered list and updating the language setting an expectation for faculty to set up an out of office if they are unavailable via email for an extended period of time (ex. during summer, if not teaching). There was a discussion, as a reminder, of the expectation of faculty if they are missing a class for an emergency versus a planned event, and a reminder verbalized for faculty to remain mindful of our state and federal requirements related to our course modalities and not changing mid-semester. The question was called on the proposed revisions to the Faculty Engagement Policy – the vote was 20 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Dr. Sutherland notified the FC that the FRSF Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy would be the next two addressed by the Research Committee.

Center for Faculty Development – Information Item

Dr. Colley invited everyone (and reminded them) to Game Night on 10/08. Dr. Colley also shared a brief update with a new Faculty Evaluation Strategy that CFD will be supporting. This approach will include a developmental lane and a formal lane to ensure faculty are receiving the support they want and need as they work toward teaching excellence. She also shared an update about training and support that CFD will offer to faculty as the institution transitions to the new IDEA Student Evaluations that the university is moving to for Spring of 2027. In addition, Dr. Colley reminded folks that she is available to support a mid-term evaluation if any faculty would like to implement one this semester. Please see the Presentation provided in the FC Teams for October 2026, review the CFD Newsletters, and reach out to Dr. Colley with questions.

New Business

Dr. Cotten invited FC members to The Davenport for a beverage after the meeting, if anyone was interested.

Meeting Adjourned

Members in Attendance

College of Business:

- Farzaneh Noghani
- Leroy Robinson
- L. Jean Walker
- Jeff Whitworth

College of Education:

- RJ Davis, online

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- Rebecca Huss-Keeler
- Roberta Raymond
- Neelofer Tajani
- Jana Wilis

College of Science and Engineering:

- Krishani Abeysekera
- Kazi Billah
- Ross Niswanger
- Yipeng Yang
- Gene Shan

College of Human Sciences and Humanities:

- Karen Alexander
- Lorie Jacobs
- Angela Kelling
- Steven Sutherland
- Chris Ward

Officers:

- Stephen Cotten, Presiding Officer
- Sheila Baker. Vice Presiding Officer
- Heather Kanenberg, Secretary

Guests in Attendance

- Provost Abdelrahman
- Kay Colley
- Christine Walther
- Glenn Sanford
- Jennifer Irvin
- Julia Farmer
- David Garrison

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A COMPLETE FACULTY EVALUATION STRATEGY

From student voice to teaching growth

Center for Faculty Development



1

CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The shift: no single score tells the whole story

A complete strategy combines multiple sources, distinct purposes, reflection, and appropriate governance.



ADDS CONTEXT
Interprets feedback within the course setting

REDUCES OVERRELIANCE
Balances student ratings with other evidence

SUPPORTS REFLECTION
Makes faculty response visible

STRENGTHENS DECISIONS
Builds a more credible teaching story

BETTER EVIDENCE • BETTER DECISIONS

2

CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

One system, clearly separated lanes

Developmental activity protects trust; formal evaluation follows policy and governance.



DEVELOPMENTAL LANE

Midterm feedback • Teaching Squares • Faculty-controlled review

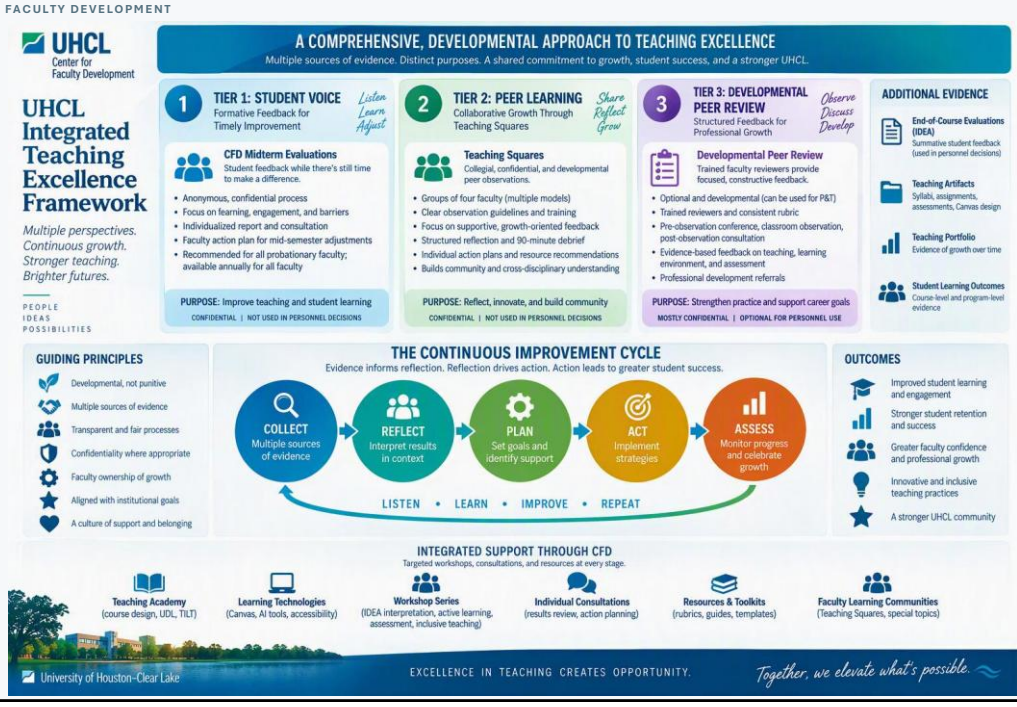
FORMAL LANE

Formal peer evaluation • IDEA End-of-course evaluation • Personnel processes

Development requires trust. Personnel evaluation requires policy and governance.

3

CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



4

CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

IDEA becomes one voice in a larger evidence story

Use student ratings to identify patterns, then connect those patterns to context, reflection, and development.



1 IMPLEMENT

Launch IDEA as the institution's end-of-course student feedback instrument beginning Spring 2027.

2 INTERPRET

Review results alongside course context, learning outcomes, modality, and faculty reflection.

3 IMPROVE

Use themes to select targeted workshops, consultations, and course-level experiments.

IDEA informs the conversation. It does not become the whole conversation.

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CENTER FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Milestone timeline: building toward IDEA

Fall 2026 builds readiness for the Spring 2027 IDEA launch and later integration.

FALL 2026
GOVERNANCE & DESIGN
Purpose • confidentiality • records • protocols

FALL 2026
MIDTERM EVALUATION REVISION
Implement and review with faculty participants

FALL 2026
PILOT TEACHING SQUARES
Establish purpose, confidentiality, and protocols

FALL 2026
PRE-IDEA WORKSHOPS
Prepare faculty to interpret and use feedback

1 — 2 — 3 — 4

Continue to Spring 2027

SPRING 2027 IDEA LAUNCH: ANCHOR MILESTONE

5 — 6 — 7 — 8

SPRING 2027
IDEA LAUNCH
Communication • interpretation • reporting roles

NEXT PHASE
INTEGRATE EVIDENCE
Connect midterm feedback, IDEA, and reflection

LATER PHASE
DEVELOPMENTAL REVIEW
Train reviewers; launch faculty-controlled process

POLICY-DEPENDENT
FORMAL EVALUATION
Advance after governance and policy review

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