

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2025

Time: 1:01 PM – 1:56 PM

Location: B2524, Bayou Building, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Presiding: Dr. Stephen Cotten

FACULTY ATTENDED:

Yvette Bendeck.....COB	Krishani Abeysekera CSE
Ken BlackCOB	Nelson Carter..... CSE
Steven CottenCOB	Jeff Mountain CSE
Farzaneh NoghaniCOB	Ross Niswanger CSE
Jeff WhitworthCOB	Yi Su..... CSE
Sheila BakerCOE	Paul Withey CSE
Michelle GilesCOE	Karen Alexander HSH
Rebecca Huss-Keeler*COE	Michael Brims HSH
Lisa JonesCOE	Neal Dugre..... HSH
Omah M. Williams-Duncan.....COE	Lorie Jacobs..... HSH
Jana Willis.....COE	Jason Makepeace..... HSH
Faiza Zalila	Steven Sutherland HSH

GUESTS ATTENDED:

Christine Walther	Interim Associate Dean, HSH
Glenn Sanford	Dean, HSH
Edward Waller.....	Interim Provost

1. Meeting Called to Order

Dr. Cotten called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

2. Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed; No objections were raised.

3. Opening Remarks

- Dr. Cotten congratulated Dr. Edward Waller on his appointment as Interim Provost.

4. Provost's Office Report

- Dr. Waller provided timeline updates on two administrative searches:
 - College of Education Dean Search
 - Recruiting since July; Finalists are anticipated for campus visits in January; Appointment anticipated by early February; Start date anticipated for June or July 2026.
 - Provost Search
 - Committee will begin meetings in October; Application review starts in late October and early November; Semi-finalist selection in approximately January; Campus visits with finalists in March; Target appointment by June or July 2026.

Dr. Cotten reminded **members to submit comments on the draft Academic Policy Development document by October 7** for review at the Provost Council meeting on October 13.

5. Committee Reports

Research Committee

Chair: Dr. Steven Sutherland

No updates at this time. First meeting is scheduled to immediately follow Faculty Council.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Chair: Dr. Lorie Jacobs

No updates; will meet soon. Work on grievance policy anticipated.

Curriculum Committee

Chair: Dr. Rebecca Huss-Keeler

The committee addressed multiple items:

1. Grading Policy
 - Discussion focused on allowing grade changes by the instructor or the appropriate Dean (or Dean's designee).
 - Final endorsement deferred to next meeting.

2. Minnie Stevens Piper Award Procedure

- Committee discussed expanding nomination sources beyond self-nomination to include students, alumni, and peers.
- Concerns included coercion, fairness, and alignment with state-level criteria.
- Suggestions included peer review. Further review will occur at the committee level.

3. Academic Honesty Policy

- Reviewed updates related to AI usage, online proctoring privacy concerns, and appeal procedures.
- Changes include providing on-campus testing options for students who are uncomfortable with home scans and changing language regarding appeals.
- Additional policy reviews and updates are planned for grading, textbooks, office hours, faculty availability, and online course authoring.

6. Concluding Remarks

- Dr. Cotten emphasized the **urgency of revising the Faculty Grievance Procedure**, a priority for President Walker.
 - Volunteers will be sought from Academic Affairs Committee to collaborate with Provost Council members to draft a new procedure.
- Clarification on SB37's impact on faculty involvement in grievance and disciplinary procedures is pending from Office of General Counsel.
- Discussion also included the legality of Faculty Assembly and the need to restart stalled policy reviews.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.