University of Houston Clear Lake
University Staff Association

USA General Meeting Minutes Date October 15, 2026

- **Welcome**
  - Lupita Hernandez started the meeting at 10:02 am. She gave a reminder that the meeting will be recorded and posted online. Approval of September Minutes, motion to approve, and seconded. Passed as written.
- **Guest Speaker:**
  - Daniel Ramirez, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communication
    - Telling UHCL's Story: From Strategy to Impact

USA Committee Reports

- **President and Vice President Update, Lupita Hernandez & Susan Minchew**
  - Updates from President Walker:
    - A small group traveled to Austin to testify before the Legislature regarding UHCL's budget requests.
    - UHCL was the last institution to testify. The request included restoring the 3% budget cuts, which was also requested by all other institutions.
    - He met with staff from the Governor's Office, the Speaker of the House, and State Senators to discuss UHCL's budget requests. He plans to return in the spring for another round of testimony.
    - Dr. Eric Tack and his team are discussing ways to maximize the use of the Navigate system and develop best practices for student services.
    - Dr. Walker is serving on the search committee for the next UHD President. The goal is to have the position filled by January.
    - Construction projects at Bayou Building are progressing: Atrium II is complete, the chiller is operational, and work on the elevators and Atrium I is underway.
    - The President's Staff Halloween event is scheduled for October 29, the same day as the Recreation Center's Halloween event. Additional information about the staff event will be shared soon.
    - Dr. Walker continues to tour the campus with the Provost as their schedules permit, showing him around and making introductions.
    - The contract for the new roof at the Delta Building has been signed.
- **Fundraising Committee, Chair Calvin Nguyen**
  - Restaurant fundraising idea.
  - Planning for Spring Market
  - Having fall fundraising ideas?
    - Contact USA@uhcl.edu or Calvin!
- **Program Planning Committee, Chair Raven Coleman & Theresa Rodriguez**
  - Duck Races: October 13 | 11-1 PM
  - Holiday Party: December 16 | SSCB 1100
    - Karaoke, snacks, ugly sweater contest
  - Want to volunteer to help out for an event? We would love some help! Please contact Raven or Theresa.
    - ColemanR@uhcl.edu | Rodriguezth@uhcl.edu

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- **Professional Development Committee, Chair Shannon Samuelson**
  - Working on December Professional Development.
- **Scholarship Committee, Chair Luis de Leon Polanco & Kimberly Duren**
  - USA Maria Guadalupe Torres Scholarship (Summer Semester)
    - Reviewing applicants
- **Welcome & Outreach Committee, Chair Gabrielle Loving Porter**
  - USA and Chartwells are partnering to welcome our newest staff with a special dinning perk during the onboarding!
  - The Hawk Onboarding Team is looking for new members!
    - If interested, email PorterLoving@UHCL.edu for more information
- **University Events Committee, Chair J'Naudia Hunter**
  - Chili Cook-off
    - October 17 | 1-6 PM | UHCL Quad
  - Halloween Fest
    - October 29 | 6-9 PM | Rec Center
- **Treasurer's Report, Chair Fran Williams & Meng Ni**
  - Current Account balances were given regarding the USA Support fund, USA fund, and the USA scholarships fund.

Campus Committee Updates

- **Campus Recreation Advisory Board: Marguertie Alix & Felipe Romero**
  - Rush Bowl: Grand Opening Celebration!
  - Technogym: Doing product demo Oct 8, they're the ones the Rec equipment comes from
  - Equipment Orientation: Throughout the semester, new to the gym great way to learn how equipment works
  - Halloween Fest: Oct 29 | 6-9 PM
    - *Costume competition*
    - *Candy*
    - *Food*
    - Community event so bring your kiddos or yourself.
- **Dining Advisory Committee: Crystal Carpenter & Ebony Brunn**
  - No updates

Hawk Spirit Award!

- Presented to Debbie Bush, Web Assistant, Environmental Inst of Houston. Congratulations!

Open Forum/Announcements

- **Interested in presenting at a USA meeting? Email USA@uhcl.edu**

Meeting concluded at 10:48 am
Next USA general meeting is November 19, 2026 at 10:00am