University of Houston Clear Lake
University Staff Association

USA General Meeting Minutes Date September 17, 2026

- **Welcome**
  - Lupita Hernandez started the meeting at 10:00 am. She gave a reminder that the meeting will be recorded and posted online. Approval of August Minutes, motion to approve, and seconded. Passed as written.
- **Guest Speaker:**
  - Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

USA Committee Reports

- **President and Vice President Update, Lupita Hernandez & Susan Minchew**
  - Updates from President Walker:
    - Parking lot B – Currently used for employee/faculty parking. Will coordinate with Parking Services to discuss reinstating the gates and clickers, if possible.
    - Construction – Updates on ongoing construction projects.
      - Chilling Towers – Not functioning properly; will make another attempt to address the issue.
      - Atriums
      - Faculty labs over fall semester then to student labs
      - Lab Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony – Planned for late November.
    - Admissions and Recruitment
      - Dickinson ISD: Guaranteed admission initiative.
      - Media Relations: Increase efforts to improve media relations and secure greater media coverage.
      - FTIC Enrollment: Prepare a press release highlighting the 17% increase in first-time-in-college (FTIC) enrollment.
      - Community College Transfers: In October, receive data from community colleges on students with 40 credit hours to begin marketing UHCL as a potential transfer destination.
    - Academic Initiatives and Policy Updates
      - The Governor has requested consideration of a 90-credit-hour bachelor's degree, with 30 credit hours of general education requirements instead of the current 42.
        - Redesigning the First-Year Experience program.
- **Fundraising Committee, Chair Calvin Nguyen**
  - Fall Harvest Fair: planning in November.
  - Having fall fundraising ideas?
    - Contact USA@uhcl.edu or Calvin!
- **Program Planning Committee, Chair Raven Coleman & Theresa Rodriguez**
  - Destress Event: September 30 | Bayou 2311 | 2-4 PM
    - San Jacinto College students will be on campus to give 10-15 massages
    - Additional activities to help reduce stress will include coloring, LEGO building, and calming music.

- 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

- **Professional Development Committee, Chair Shannon Samuelson**
  - No updates
- **Scholarship Committee, Chair Luis de Leon Polanco & Kimberly Duren**
  - USA Maria Guadalupe Torres Scholarship (Summer Semester)
    - Applications are now OPEN!!
    - September 17th, 2026 – October 1st, 2026
- **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**
  - No updates
- **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: Opening Sep/Oct
  - Technogym: Doing product demo Oct 8, they're the ones the Rec equipment comes from
  - Souring at UHCL: Collab with CMHC a wellness series Sep 22, Sep 29, and Oct 6.
  - 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 Andrew Melton, Grounds Maintenance, FMC. Congratulations!

University of Houston Clear Lake
University Staff Association

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 October 15, 2026 at 10:00am