

## Academic Affairs Update- February 26, 2024

Dear Faculty and Academic Staff,

We are pleased to announce the search committee for the Dean of the College of Science and Engineering. Dean Sanford and Dr. Santiago-Vasquez have agreed to co-chair this important search. As previously announced, the University has retained Academic Search to lead the process. Academic Search is one of the leading search firms in higher education and their job is to recruit a large and diverse pool of highly-qualified candidates.

The [job prospectus](#) has been posted and the search committee will begin reviewing applications in early April with finalists visiting campus in early May. If you have any questions throughout the process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Search Committee for CSE Dean:

- Dr. Glenn Sanford, HSH Dean (Co-chair)
- Dr. Lori Santiago-Vasquez, Associate Professor (Co-chair)
- Dr. Chunlong (Carl) Zhang, Professor
- Dr. Samina Masood, Professor
- Dr. Ipek Bozkurt, Associate Professor
- Dr. Ross Niswanger, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Nelson Carter, Senior Lecturer

For the most up-to-date information, visit the [CSE Dean Search webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Maynard, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Dr. Stephen Cotten, Faculty Senate President

### Faculty Senate Updates from Dr. Stephen Cotten, Faculty Senate President

The next Faculty Senate meeting will take place on March 6, 1 - 3 p.m., in Bayou 2524.

I want to express our gratitude for all of the people who have volunteered for everything. We had no trouble getting a homecoming committee rep, an overflowing pool for the CSE Dean search, a full slate for student conduct (Matthew Perry should be reaching out), a commencement committee rep. I was told that a part of being FS President was twisting arms to get people onto committees, and that has not been the case.

This is my not-at-all awkward segue into reminding people that election season is coming up – not the boring national existential crisis ones but the important ones, like for Faculty Senate. We take nominations for Faculty Senate president at Faculty Assembly, which is tentatively

scheduled for March 20. If you have any interest in the job and want to know how it goes, feel free to reach out to me at [cotten@uhcl.edu](mailto:cotten@uhcl.edu). It really gives you a chance to make an impact on issues important to faculty and learn a lot about how higher education operates; your colleagues are easy to work with and it's extremely rewarding. I'll leave it to the reader to decide if I'm lying because we're going to need volunteers.

You may have received a request for progress reports for some of your students. Please do them if the request makes sense. This is fairly new process and we haven't fully integrated it with all of our systems, so some requests did not make sense (e.g. reports were requested for 2nd 8W students who haven't started class yet) or were redundant (ASR or midterm grade reports have already been filed on those students). The nonsensical requests can be ignored until you have data. The redundant requests can be ignored if you wish, but since you already did the work on the earlier ASR/midterm grade report, the cost of fulfilling the request is likely less than 2 minutes.

For information about Faculty Senate, upcoming meeting dates and minutes, visit the [Faculty Senate webpage](#). To submit questions/concerns to Faculty Senate, please contact the appropriate committee representative for your college.

## Faculty & Staff Spotlights

College of Health Sciences and Humanities' Karen Alexander recognized at state and national levels for excellence in nursing

Dr. Karen Alexander, Founding Director of Nursing & Associate Professor (HSH), was recently honored by the Association of Black Nursing Faculty, Inc. (ABNF) as a "Member on the Move" and appointed as the District Liaison for District 9 by the Texas Nurses Association. With a deep-rooted passion for nursing from a young age, Dr. Alexander has dedicated her career to caring for individuals during their most vulnerable moments. Her commitment to excellence in nursing shines through her diverse experiences in the military, public sector, and academia, where she continuously strives to elevate the standards of nursing practice.

Notably, the recognition by ABNF underscores Dr. Alexander's unwavering dedication to advocating for marginalized communities and promoting a positive nursing environment. As a trailblazer in the field, she not only sets an example for all nurses but also serves as an advocate for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) nurses who often feel underrepresented. Her efforts align with the core values of nursing, emphasizing the importance of recognition, appreciation, and continuous professional development to enhance patient care and healthcare outcomes.

Furthermore, Dr. Alexander's commitment to education and mentorship is evident in her role leading UHCL's various nursing programs, including RN-BSN, RN-Nurse Refresher, and the upcoming MSN in Nursing Education and Leadership (launching in Fall 2024). By empowering

nurses to acquire essential skills, pursue advanced degrees, and embrace leadership roles, she cultivates a culture of excellence that transcends classroom boundaries and fosters healthier communities.

#### Education Abroad and Scholar Services' Larisa Landry receives the Region III Rising Star Young Leader Award

Global Scholar Advisor II, Larisa Landry, was recently awarded the Region III Rising Star Young Leader Award by the National Association of International Educators (NAFSA). NAFSA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to international education and exchange, advancing policies and practices that ensure a more interconnected, peaceful world today and for future generations. Executive Director of Education Abroad and Scholar Services Dr. Bianca Schonberg and Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Cynthia Howard both nominated Landry for the prestigious award for her significant contributions to the Education Abroad and Scholar Services program's success. Read the [full story on Landry](#).

#### UHCL's Testing Center Hosts College Readiness Mini-Conference

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, UHCL hosted college readiness, assessment, and counseling staff from Houston area K-12 and higher education institutions for a one-day mini-conference to continue to work on a vertical alignment that would allow all students and the community to easily map their educational and career progression so they can plan their future with clarity and purpose.

This alignment will simplify vertical mobility among all area institutions, and provide Houston area students with both employer-sought professional certifications, as well as innovative and robust educational programs to support their desired career paths.

Attendees included K-12 staffers from Clear Creek, Deer Park, Dickinson, Fort Bend, Friendswood, Galena Park, Galveston, Hempstead, Katy, Pearland, Pasadena, and Spring ISDs, as well as St. Michael's Academy.

Also in attendance were higher education representatives from 2-year institutions Alvin Community College, Brazos College, College of the Mainland, Galveston College, Houston Community College, Lee College, Lone Star College, and San Jacinto College.

Four-year institutions were represented by the University of Houston, UH-Downtown, UH-Victoria, and Sam Houston State University.

#### Important Info & Reminders

##### 2024 PDFA Nominations

The Office of the Provost is now accepting nominations for the 2024 President's Distinguished Faculty Awards (PDFA) in teaching, research, and service, and nominations for UHCL

Outstanding Lecturer and Outstanding Adjunct Awards. Nomination letters should be sent to provost@uhcl.edu by Wednesday, March 13 at midnight. View [criteria and guidelines](#).

#### Submit Research Proposals for Spring Faculty Research Support Funds

Tenure-track UHCL faculty members are invited to submit research proposals for the Faculty Research Support Funds (FRSF) spring competition. Submission deadline for is Friday, March 22 at 5 p.m. Eligibility Requirements: Full-time faculty; Tenure-track or tenured; No current FRSF funds; No overdue FRSF final reports. For more information, visit the [Research & Sponsored Programs website](#).

#### Now Open: Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Competition for 2025-2026

Explore opportunities for U.S. citizens to go abroad with the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. With more than 400 awards annually in over 135 countries to teach, conduct research, and carry out professional projects, find the right Fulbright opportunity for you on the [Fulbright Scholars website](#). View [UHCL Fulbright Alumni](#).

#### ORSP Update: IRB Submission Software Coming Fall 2024

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is excited to announce that Cayuse Human Ethics, their new IRB submission software, will be fully implemented by Fall 2024!

Why are we so excited about this?

Cayuse Human Ethics will allow for electronic preparation of studies, submissions and routing. It is a cloud-based tool that facilitates submissions (including initial application, modifications, renewals and incident reports), reviews and routing. It will also send system alerts and notifications when there are pending tasks, such as when a faculty sponsor needs to certify a student application or when a reviewer has a pending review. Users will experience increased transparency of the status of study protocols throughout all phases of a protocol. This will effectively reduce the need to rely on email and will streamline ORSP's institutional process. Beginning Sept. 1, ORSP will no longer accept IRB applications via email. All applications, amendments, and renewals will need to be submitted via Cayuse after this date.

Want a sneak peek? Contact sponsoredprograms@uhcl.edu for access to the training environment.

#### Upcoming Events

March 6: Faculty Senate Meeting, 1 - 3 p.m., Bayou 2524

March 11-17: Spring Break (for students)

March 19: Honoring Trailblazing Women Leaders in STEM, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Garden Room, [Event info can be found here](#).

View [Spring 2024 Academic Calendar](#).