

University of Houston-Clear Lake
Faculty Development Leave Applications
Board of Regents Meeting
August 20, 2026

Faculty Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	Pay (full/1/2)	Leave Reason
Beavers, Elizabeth	College of Education	Teaching, Learning and Educator Preparation	Associate Professor	Fall	Full Pay	Dr. Beaver’s activities will include the completion of a scholarly book on self-leadership in early childhood education, the development of a companion reflective journal, and the publication of peer-reviewed research articles focused on emotional resilience and workforce retention among early childhood educators. These projects will culminate multi-year, collaborative research efforts.
Kelling, Nicholas	College of Human Science and Humanities	Psychological and Nursing Sciences	Professor	Spring	Full Pay	Dr. Kelling’s leave will develop specialized software and an accompanying workbook for teaching the Psychology of Learning, but with capability for other courses including statistics. The software will provide a modern and computer-based replacement for animal, generally rat, based learning labs integrating AI learning. These projects will expand Dr. Kelling’s expertise in both Human Factors and AI. In addition to publication, another deliverable will be to develop and submit a grant proposal to fund additional testing and refinement.

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Roberto Ballarini	College of Engineering	Civil and Environmental Engineering	Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	Collaborate with faculty at Columbia University and MIT on the development of new carbon neutral concrete as well as theoretical and computational multiscale/multiphysics mechanics models, as applied to composite structures, ice sheets in polar regions, and infrastructure components.
Jeff Feng	College of Architecture		Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	Complete first draft of the book manuscript "The Guts to Innovate: Resilience, Inspiration, and Tenacity in Design"