

**Faculty Development Leave
University of Houston-Clear Lake
Board of Regents Meeting
March 2026**

Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	Pay (full/1/2)	Leave Reason
Sheng, Lifei	College of Business	Decision Sciences, Economics, Finance and Marketing	Associate Professor	Academic Year	½ Pay	The purpose of Dr. Sheng's leave is to advance her research program in Operations Management (OM) in digital entertainment, with a particular focus on the video game industry. During the leave, she plans to develop and submit multiple papers to highest quality journals and initiate new projects exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can be leveraged in entertainment analytics and gameplay dynamics.
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.

University of Houston-Downtown
Faculty Development Leave Applications
Board of Regents Meeting
March 2026

PSID	Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	Year	Pay (full/1/2)	Leave Reason	Request Status
8002593	Kevin Buckler	UHD-College of Public Service	Criminal Justice and Social Work	Professor	Spring	2027	Full	To complete two book projects on how popular culture not only reflects but also influences societal attitudes, providing an accessible avenue for criminological analysis and student engagement.	Recommended for funding by the university.
126580	Zishang Liu	UHD-Marilyn Davies College of Business	Accounting and International Business Department	Professor	Fall	2026	Full	Conducting a research study and publishing the findings that explore hypotheses highlighting industry visibility and reputational dynamics as key moderators of ESG accountability, offering insights for regulators and firms seeking to prevent greenwashing and strengthen climate-related disclosure standards.	Recommended for funding by the university.
8010011	Natacha Poggio	UHD-College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Arts and Communication	Associate Professor	Fall	2026	Full	To research and design an interdisciplinary visual communication project that translates research on the interconnected health of humans, animals, and the environment into accessible public-facing formats.	Recommended for funding by the university.
1409933	Arash Rahmatian	UHD-College of Sciences and Technology	Computer Science and Engineering Technology	Associate Professor	Fall	2026	Full	To design a comprehensive, research-based opportunity for students to engage in forensic engineering, including designing experiments, working in authentic labs, and internships with local organizations. The result will be a first-of-its-kind undergraduate research and certificate program, and will culminate in the dissemination of findings through a conference presentation, a teaching-scholarship manuscript on curriculum design, and the curriculum materials.	Recommended for funding by the university.
82639	Martha Sullivan	UHD-College of Humanities and Social Sciences	English	Professor	Fall	2026	Full	To write a book on the acclaimed American novelist Cormac McCarthy, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and a MacArthur "Genius" Grant. A scholarly journal, a profusion of scholarly books and articles, national and international conferences, and podcasts are all dedicated to his texts, several of which have been adapted to the screen, including the Academy Award winning film No Country for Old Men.	Recommended for funding by the university.

University of Houston
Faculty Development Leave Applications

Board of Regents Meeting

March 2026

Faculty Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	Pay (full/1/2)	Leave Reason	BOR Approval
Allison Archer	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Political Science	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	Work on a book project that will be an extension of recent work in the field of media and politics and that will speak to scholars in political science and communication.	TBD
francine harris	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	English	Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	Research and travel to conduct research for project awarded by Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship Grant	TBD
Johanna Bick	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Psychology	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	Expand research focus to better understanding early childhood brain development and developmental outcomes in context of nationally normed brain charts	TBD
Steven Craig	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Economics	Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To study the rent control law in Luxembourg City, which while sharing some features of rent control laws that have been implemented in US cities has a unique feature of providing landlords greater incentives to invest in their properties.	TBD
Lynn Voskuil	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	English	Associate Professor	Academic Year 26-27	Half Pay	To complete book manuscript, <i>Horticulture and Imperialism: The Garden Spaces of the British Empire, 1789-1914</i> .	TBD
Yael Loewenstein	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Philosophy	Associate Professor	Academic Year 26-27	Half Pay	To write a book on the conceptual coherence of backward time travel given a standard conception of time.	TBD
Norah L. A. Gharala	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	History	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To complete a full version of her current book manuscript, "A Black Man from India": Antonio Ximenes and His Quest for Liberty in the Iberian World" and submit to Cambridge University Press.	TBD
Alexey Golubev	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	History	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To complete the manuscript <i>Knowledge Propaganda: Soviet Socialism as an Epistemic Project</i> and continue research efforts toward a new book project.	TBD
Yan Huang	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Valenti School of Communication	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	Developing and validating a theoretical framework that advances understanding of psychological responses to communicated uncertainty.	TBD
Ashwini Joshi	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Communication Disorders	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To pursue a focused research project in collaboration with the Texas Voice Center in the Dept. of Otorhinolaryngology at Houston Methodist, and to continue to publish manuscripts in peer reviewed journals from existing project.	TBD
Matthew Clavin	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	History	Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	To complete a draft of his current book manuscript, <i>Armed to the Teeth: Guns, Slaves, and the Seeds of Civil War</i>	TBD
Melody Yunzi Li	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Modern & Classical Languages	Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	To expand on research that focuses on diasporic cartographies, moving from textual maps of literature to embodied maps of dance.	TBD
j. Kastely	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	English	Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To complete drafting a monograph, currently titled <i>The Rhetoric of Place in Modernity</i>	TBD
Tracey Ledoux	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Health and Human Performance	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To develop a parent facilitator training curriculum designed to equip parents of toddlers to train other parents in healthy lifestyle activities, and continue research efforts to reduce obesity in toddlers.	TBD
Auritro Majumder	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	English	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To continue work on a second monograph, <i>The Death of Literature: Institutions, Histories, and Spaces</i>	TBD
Luis Daniel Medina	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Psychology	Associate Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	Cross-site collaborative work to survey research landscape on community-engaged Alzheimer's and dementia research.	TBD
Monique T. Mills	Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Communication Disorders	Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	To finalize and submit several manuscripts from current projects, begin a new project for which she will collect data in both Houston and San Antonio, and develop both foundation and federal grant proposals based on that collected data.	TBD
Lars Grabow	College of Engineering	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	Professor	Academic Year 26-27	Half Pay	Piercy Visiting Professorship in Chemical Engineering at the University of Minnesota (UMN) and research residency at the Institut de Chimie et Procédés pour l'Énergie, l'Environnement et la Santé (ICPEES) in France.	TBD
Gina Warren	UH Law Center		Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To complete of a series of scholarly law review articles on community emergency power resilience. I am conducting an empirical study of local comprehensive plans across the United States to assess how jurisdictions are integrating backup power systems and designated areas of refuge into planning frameworks.	TBD
Erin Kelleher	Natural Sciences and Mathematics	Biology and Biochemistry	Associate Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	To develop collaborative research with Dr. Maria Spletter (UMKC), as supported by the Mid-Career Advancement Award (NSF)	TBD
Steven Crawford	Bauer College of Business	Finance	Associate Professor	Spring 2027	Full Pay	Complete research papers with collaborators in Switzerland and further research endeavors with collaborators at other European institutions.	TBD
Robin Gearing	Graduate College of Social Work		Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	Expand multisite research collaboration between UH, GCSW and several Indian universities.	TBD
Shih-chi Chiu	Bauer College of Business	Management	Associate Professor	Fall 2026	Full Pay	To advance research and teaching in sustainability and strategic leadership and to serve as Visiting Professor for Sustainability at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.	TBD