

**Faculty Development Leave  
University of Houston-Downtown**

Name	College	Department	Faculty Title	Term	Year	Pay (full/1/2)	Leave Reason	Request Status
Baird, Amy	College of Sciences and Technology	Natural Sciences	Professor	Spring	2025-2026	Full Pay	Compile and analyze over 10 years' worth of data on bowhead whale population genetics and write a paper to present to the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Scientific Committee meeting in 2026. The analysis conducted and presented comprise part of the bowhead whale implementation review, which takes place every 7-8 years to evaluate the sustainability of the Alaskan Natives' bowhead subsistence harvest.	Pending BOR Approval
Cao, Qing (Ray)	Marilyn Davies College of Business	General Business, Marketing, and Supply Chain Management	Professor	Fall	2025-2026	Full Pay	Develop a research model that establishes a nomological network across the key constructs of mindfulness, reliability, and performance of the hospital and to test the research model using textual data collected from multiple sources (social media, websites, blogs, documents, etc.) of a random sample of US hospitals.	Pending BOR Approval
Crone, Travis	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Social Sciences	Professor	Spring	2025-2026	Full Pay	Develop measurement tools and publish on the impact of religion on attitudes related to decision-making. The project will involve cleaning, analyzing, and writing up for publication a substantial dataset.	Pending BOR Approval
Gascoigne, Carolyn	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	History, Humanities, and Languages	Professor	Fall	2025-2026	Full Pay	Examine the presence of non-English (as well as non-Standard English) linguistic tokens within the linguistic landscape of target areas of Houston. As a linguistically and ethnically diverse city, we know that tokens of linguistic vitalities will be present. However, a mapping of their presence will inform research related to the intersection of language, power, identity, and place. The following projects will be undertaken: a linguistic landscape study of Houston, a study of public tokens of translanguaging, a study of UHD students' translingual dispositions, and a student linguistic landscape symposium.	Pending BOR Approval
Yuan, Shengli	College of Sciences and Technology	Computer Science and Engineering Technology	Professor	Fall	2025-2026	Full Pay	Write a new textbook that covers all the basic theories and fundamentals, as well as the latest tools and findings, in the field of cybersecurity. This proposed textbook will incorporate experience, insights, and findings of a long-time educator and researcher in this field, helping students of UHD and other universities to establish a strong footing in their study of cybersecurity.	Pending BOR Approval

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Nicol, Mattew	Natural Sciences and Mathematics	Math	Professor	Spring 2026	Full Pay	Leverhulme Visiting Professorship- University of Warwick.	Pending BOR Approval
Varadarajan, Navin	Cullen College of Engineering	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering	Professor	Fall 2025	Full Pay	Shadow melanoma oncologists at the MD Anderson Cancer Center	Pending BOR Approval
Boger, Carl	Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership		Professor	Spring 2026	Full Pay	Develop an expertise related to identifying how to reduce stress related barriers for individuals to become successful in the workplace.	Pending BOR Approval
Gist, Conra	College of Education	Curriculum and Instruction	Professor	Fall 2025	Full Pay	To shift research focus from studying grow your own program designs in general, to now begin investigating more specifically, the creation of restorative educator development and practitioner networks that better equip and sustain future and current educators.	Pending BOR Approval