AGENDA

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
SPECIAL CALLED TELECONFERENCE BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

DATE: **Thursday, November 19, 2026**

TIME: **9:00 AM**

PLACE: **University of Houston**
Board of Regents Conference Room
128 Ezekiel Cullen Building, First Floor
4302 University Drive
Houston, Texas 77204

The University of Houston System Board of Regents will convene a Special Called Teleconference Board of Regents meeting from approximately 9:00 a.m. to approximately 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2027, according to the following agenda. It is necessary to conduct this special meeting by telephone because it was difficult or impossible to convene a quorum in one place in a timely manner and the action on the agenda is of sufficient urgency to be considered and acted upon prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on March 4, 2027.

Link to live broadcast of Special Called Teleconference Board of Regents meeting below:
https://uh.edu/bor-live

Chair: **Jack B. Moore**
Vice Chair: **Ricky Raven**
Secretary: **Gregory C. King**

I. **Special Called Teleconference Board of Regents Meeting**

A. Call to Order
Presenter: Chairman Jack B. Moore

II. **Executive Session**
Presenter: Chairman Jack B. Moore

A. 1. Consultation with System Attorney Regarding Legal Matters and/or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers
TEXAS GOV'T CODE SECTION 551.071

- Pending legal and contract matters, potential legal claims, updates, discussion and advice from General Counsel

2. Deliberations regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Sale or Value of Real Property
   TEXAS GOV'T CODE SECTION 551.072

3. Deliberation Regarding a Prospective Gift
   TEXAS GOV'T CODE SECTION 551.073

4. Personnel Matters Relating to Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Assignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Officers or Employees including but not limited to the Chancellor, Presidents, Vice Chancellors, in the Division of Athletics and members of the Board of Regents
   TEXAS GOV'T CODE SECTION 551.074

- Discussion regarding personnel matters within the University of Houston System

III. **Report and Action from Executive Session**

A. Approval is requested for the appointment of the President of the University of Houston-Downtown campus – University of Houston System 3

Action: Approval
Presenter: Chairman Jack B. Moore

B. Request for Approval of Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology University of Houston – Downtown 5

Action: Approval
Presenter: Chairman Jack B. Moore

IV. **Adjourn**
Presenter: Chairman Jack B. Moore

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

ITEM: Approval is requested for the appointment of the President for the University of Houston-Downtown campus

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:

Approval is requested for the appointment of Dr. Abel Chavez as President of the University of Houston-Downtown campus pursuant to Board of Regents policy 02.02 and 57.10. Dr. Chavez's appointment is effective February 1, 2027.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Biographical Sketch

FISCAL NOTE: None

RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

COMPONENT: University of Houston-Downtown

Renu Khator

CHANCELLOR Renu Khator

11/18/2026

DATE



ABEL CHAVEZ, Ph,D

Abel Antonio Chávez, Ph.D., is a university president, educator, and engineer whose career has focused on expanding educational opportunity, strengthening institutions, and connecting higher education to the communities and economies they serve.

Dr. Chávez currently serves as President of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. During his presidency, he has led significant institutional transformation focused on student success, financial strength, operational excellence, academic innovation, and strategic growth. His leadership has included strengthening student retention and completion, realigning the academic portfolio, advancing innovative academic offerings, eliminating the barriers to credential completion, expanding research and grant activity, securing transformational philanthropic support, and building partnerships with business, civic, and community leaders.

Previously, Dr. Chávez held executive and academic leadership positions at Western Colorado University. Earlier in his career, he worked as an engineer and project manager in the energy and industrial sectors.

The first in his family to graduate from college, Dr. Chávez experienced higher education as a nontraditional, commuter, adult, and working student, and as a parent pursuing his education while raising a family. His own educational journey began at a community college, where he earned an associate degree, followed by a B.S. in mechanical engineering, an MBA from the University of Houston, and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Colorado Denver. Those experiences shaped his conviction that higher education is the most reliable engine of economic mobility available to families, and his commitment to building institutions that make that mobility real for students, families, and communities.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

ITEM: Request for Approval of Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology University of Houston – Downtown

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:

Approval is requested for the appointment of Dr. Hala Schepmann as Dean of the College of Sciences and Technology at the University of Houston-Downtown campus pursuant to Board of Regents policy 57.10. Dr. Schepmann's appointment is effective February 1, 2027.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Biographical Sketch

FISCAL NOTE: None

RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

COMPONENT: University of Houston-Downtown

Renu Khator

CHANCELLOR Renu Khator

11/18/2026

DATE



Dr. Hala Schepmann

Dr. Hala Schepmann currently serves as chair of Chemistry and Physics at Southern Oregon University, a public, regional, primarily undergraduate institution.

As chair, Dr. Schepmann led the modernization of her program's curricular offerings, introducing interdisciplinary coursework that supported biology, computer science, environmental science, and mathematics majors; she successfully spearheaded her program's national re-accreditation; and she navigated her department through the COVID-19 pandemic, introducing a novel student proxy model and a Peer Leaders program into their first-year laboratory courses. And working with internal and external stakeholders, Dr. Schepmann led the creation of an endowed scholarship to support first year students.

Understanding that hands-on experiential learning is pivotal to student success, Dr. Schepmann served as the principal investigator on an NSF Major Research Instrumentation grant. And, in an effort to expand access to research opportunities, she led the creation of an endowed student research scholarship, an unrestricted memorial endowment, and an endowed research fund - enabling her program to launch the university's first faculty and student funded Summer Research Program which quickly grew to include all STEM programs and now also supports all faculty and students in the College of Natural and Social Sciences.

Now in her third appointment as chair, she has focused on development of public-private partnerships, offering regional employers access to workforce training and data acquisition and analysis opportunities and promoting student internship initiatives.

Dr. Schepmann's institutional leadership roles include serving as president of the faculty association and she is the co-founder of a faculty alliance that has spearheaded the creation and chartering of a Faculty Ombuds Office, implementation of automatic tenure and evaluation clock extensions, and development of faculty teaching and service awards. Dr. Schepmann also serves on her university's Board of Trustees and is now in her second consecutive term as the faculty trustee.

At the national level, Dr. Schepmann co-led ASCEND, a National Science Foundation ADVANCE Partnership project that created a network of faculty and administrators across 50 institutions in the Southeast, Midwest, and Northwest. ASCEND increased the advancement of mid-career women in STEM by providing education, training, and professional support for faculty to move toward promotion and leadership and support administrators to develop inclusive campus policies and cultures.

Additionally, her most recent efforts centered on transforming research enterprises at primarily undergraduate and emerging research institutions. As Co-PI of an NSF GRANTED project, she and her colleagues brought together teams of research administrators, faculty, and institutional leaders from 16 states and 58 institutions to elucidate and mitigate faculty research productivity barriers and research infrastructure challenges.

Notably, Dr. Schepmann's commitment to student success and science education is a direct outcome of her own educational path which began in Houston and has since alternated between Texas and the west coast. Dr. Schepmann graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, a master of science in organic chemistry from University of California, Berkeley, and a doctorate in bioorganic chemistry from Rice University.