



University of Houston Chapter

February 4, 2026

Dear UH Deans and Senior Administrators,

It has come to our attention that a number of Deans have sent emails to faculty in their colleges asking them to certify that their courses are “Compliant with SB 37” and Chancellor Khator’s statement that faculty are not to “indoctrinate” students. We write with a number of concerns about the way Khator’s directive is being implemented by the Deans.

While we understand that this is a difficult and uncertain time for Texas universities and we appreciate that Deans have asserted the importance of academic freedom and emphasized correctly that there is no evidence of “indoctrination” on the UH campus, the freedom of faculty to teach consistent with their judgment and expertise are guaranteed by law and cannot be abrogated in any way by decanal prerogative.

First, the only legal authorities applicable here are the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and University Board of Regents policy 21.03, the UH Academic Freedom policy. SB 37 said *absolutely nothing* about classroom course content or teaching method; it requires a narrow curriculum review of core, undergraduate academic courses based on standards that do not concern any alleged “indoctrination.” That required review is underway in Faculty Council. Chancellor Khator’s statement on “indoctrination” is also *not* a legal policy that can be enforced against faculty of any status consistent with UH bylaws and the Constitution.

In your communications with faculty a number of Deans have strayed significantly beyond existing UH policy by requiring faculty to sign statements giving, in some cases, extensive—and vague—pedagogical directives and threatening to punish faculty who refuse to sign off on these directives.

Deans simply cannot take these actions. They lack authority under UH bylaws to implement these de facto policies or to punish faculty who refuse to certify that they are aware of them.

The UH AAUP Chapter will be sure to assist any faculty members who wish to grieve any application of these de facto policies or punishments by any administrator in accordance with the UH grievance policy.

We respectfully ask you immediately to rescind your de facto policies and refrain from punishing faculty who refuse to sign off on them. If you wish to certify faculty compliance consistent with your actual authority we suggest asking faculty to confirm that they have read Regents Policy 21.03. That policy mirrors AAUP guidance and we support any effort to have faculty affirm their rights to academic freedom.

Sincerely,

The UH AAUP Chapter



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Cc: Provost Chase, Vice Provost Briggs, General Counsel Cornell, Deans, Patricia Belton Oliver, Andrew C. Davis, Xianjun Geng, Cathy Horn, Pradeep Sharma, Dennis Reynolds, Leonard M. Baynes, Daniel P. O'Connor, Jonathan A. McCullers, Gregory B. Dudley, Kathryn Tart, Michael Twa, F. Lamar Pritchard, Jim Granato, Yarneccia D. Dyson, Heidi M. Appel, Christina H. Gola