



University of Houston Chapter

March 2, 2026

To: Faculty Council

From: 174 of your colleagues (UH AAUP)

Dear Colleagues,

You asked for faculty feedback on the “guidelines,” and we understand you have received overwhelming disapproval. Since administration and FC leadership have represented that the “guidelines” are a “faculty-led” initiative, we ask that the members of faculty council be allowed to lead.

Specifically, we ask you now to represent the voice—the advice—of the UH faculty on these “guidelines” by taking a *vote*. We ask that the relevant committees reject, substitute, or amend the document submitted by the “Group of 6” committee and submit that final document to the full FC body for a vote by secret ballot. This is the only way to effectively discharge your duty to *advise* the administration on this issue. Anything less amounts to silent approval of the administration’s actions.

We understand that the administration has taken the position that you have no right to vote on anything. This is incorrect for several reasons. First, nothing in SB 37 dictates the form that your advisory views on any given topic can take. Second, centuries of democratic practice, and decades of practice in faculty senates, have employed voting as the best means of expressing the views of collective bodies. Do you believe voting is inappropriate in faculty hiring? If not, why is it inappropriate here, where academic freedom is on the line?

Third, and most concretely, the [bylaws](#) of the Faculty Council, which were approved by the administration, expressly contemplate that you *will* vote. In relevant part, the bylaws specify “an agenda for each meeting of the Faculty Council must . . . indicate the items . . . that will be subject to vote.” The bylaws also specify that *ex officio* members of the committee cannot vote on the committee’s regular business, meaning that regular membership *can* vote. Finally, the bylaws provide that “resolutions affirmed by faculty council” will be transmitted to the administration. There is simply no credible way to interpret this language other than to conclude that voting will be a part of the regular business of Faculty Council committees and the body as a whole. We can think of no matter more important for the body collectively to address than this one—a document that, in practice, will significantly [restrict](#) UH’s existing academic freedom policy, and may even violate the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

We understand the pressures you are under, and we understand how difficult this moment is. Nonetheless, we prevail on you to be courageous and accurately represent the sentiments of the faculty at this critical juncture. The time for courage is now, and we hope that you find it.

Sincerely,

174 of your colleagues (UH AAUP)