




OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Date: May 28, 2021
To: UHD COVID-19 Response Taskforce
From: Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D., President 
Subject: **UHD COVID-19 Response Taskforce Charge**

The University of Houston-Downtown has certainly faced its share of challenges during the past year, but we have persevered thanks to the hard work of its COVID-19 Response Taskforce. I am confident that I speak for the entire UHD Community in not only expressing gratitude for your hard work, but also in commending everyone for a job well done!

Moving forward, this Taskforce will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and procedures implemented over the past year while continuing to respond to emerging threats and providing guidance for future decision-making. Likewise, this group will continue to provide recommendations to senior administrative and academic leadership, interface with emergency management units, serve as the UHD's liaison to local health policy leaders, and continuously review institutional strategies to ensure an informed academic environment that prioritizes the health and safety of its community.

Next week, we return to campus, but fall is just ahead. As we look to the start of a new academic year, academic planning, enrollment scheduling and campus safety are paramount. As such, the composition of the Taskforce will reflect these priorities as well as a shift in the chair position appointment.

Below, please see the amended composition of the UHD COVID-19 Taskforce:

2021-2022 COVID-19 Taskforce

Judith Harris, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
Pamela Hurley, Associate Professor, Management & Insurance Risk Management
Ivonne Montalbano, Vice President, Employment Services and Operations
Elisa Olsen, Executive Director, University Relations
Rebecca Quander, Associate Professor & Assistant Chair, Math & Statistics
Stefany Records, Director, Administrative Operations and Compliance
Vanessa Rojas, CHSS Academic Advisor III & Staff Council
Reynaldo Romero, Associate Professor, History, Humanities & Languages
Rhonda Scherer, Associate Director, Sports & Fitness
Caroline Smith, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, Staff Council President
Jonathan Schwartz, Dean, College of Public Service
Meritza Tamez, Dean of Students
Daniel Villanueva, Vice President, Enrollment Management
Liza Alonzo, Director, Events & Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
Jennifer Bloom, Senior Assistant General Counsel (ex-officio)
Pat Ensor, Executive Director, Library, Taskforce Secretary (ex-officio)

Cynthia Vargas, Director, Emergency Management (ex-officio)
Ron Beebe, Professor, Urban Education and Faculty Senate Representative, Vice Chair
Michelle Moosally, Associate Vice President, Programming and Curriculum, Chair
*** Student Government Association Representative**

Taskforce members' terms begin June 1 and will expire at the conclusion of the 2021-22 academic year. However, terms may be extended should the threat of the virus extend beyond this timeframe.

The Taskforce will meet biweekly, or as needed, to address the conditions and emerging threats associated with COVID-19. To ensure that the work of the Taskforce substantively informs the decisions of the university's leadership structure, the Chair will also advise the Cabinet on a biweekly basis, or as needed, based on the evolving circumstances of COVID-19.

Again, I must thank everyone for their commitment to their roles on the Taskforce during the past year ... but more importantly for their dedication and loyalty to UHD.