



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

23 MAY 2022

RE: RESPONSE TO FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION RESOLUTION # SR-22-01

Tenure is a fundamental right earned by accomplished scholars at universities so that they engage in free inquiry and teaching as defined by the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). This earned right is especially important in times of societal turbulence when public discourse on many social issues becomes impassioned. Academic freedom and tenure offer a critical avenue to express ideas and viewpoints that can be threatened by majority, dominant or power-driven voices.

Here at the University of Houston-Downtown, the entire university community, including executive leadership, value academic freedom in curricular development, teaching, creativity, and scholarship as core features in delivering higher education programs and related experiences to one of the most diverse student bodies in the country.

As university leaders, President Blanchard and Interim Provost Uzman are committed to working with our higher education system partners to safeguard tenure and academic freedom in the State of Texas and thereby promote our state as a national leader in higher education.

President Loren J. Blanchard
Interim Provost Akif Uzman