

**2021 Faculty Senate Candidate Profile
President-elect Position**



Name: Sandra Zalman

College: Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Department: Art History

Years at UH: 12

Years on the Senate: 2

Please provide a brief description of your activities in the following areas for the past five years.

1) Service (including the Faculty Senate):

In the Faculty Senate, I joined the Faculty Affairs Committee, where I am chair of the Subcommittee for developing an Excellence Award that recognizes outstanding service. I am also an interim member of the Faculty Governance Committee. In addition, I currently serve on the University's Strategic Plan Implementation Committee for Research and on the Provost's Summer Read committee.

For the last five and a half years, I have served as the Program Director of Art History (we have about 60 majors, 10 graduate students, and serve the 800 students in the School of Art). In this position, I schedule courses for the program, recruit and hire adjuncts, advocate for and chair faculty searches, recruit and mentor graduate students, manage the program budget, facilitate the placement of students in paid internships, and write grants to support and improve the program.

2) Scholarship/Research:

Supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society, I am currently at work on a book about how museums of modern art at mid-century framed modern visual culture for public consumption. This book considers the modern museum's new role – bolstered by authoritative architecture – as a site that had the potential to situate modern art at the forefront of socio-political speech, but instead soon concretized a seemingly incontrovertible “universal” canon of modern art (one that withstood critical challenges for the better part of four decades), suffocating the radical underpinnings of their once progressive missions.

My first book examined Surrealism's critical and popular reception in the United States, thinking through the ways this avant-garde movement entered popular culture in the U.S. This book received the 2016 Award for Research Excellence from the Southeastern College Art Conference, and was supported by a Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. I publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals,

edited volumes, and museum exhibition catalogues. I was very honored to receive the 2016 Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship from the University of Houston.

3) Teaching:

While at UH, I have developed 9 distinct courses in Art History, some of which have been cross-listed in Womens, Gender and Sexuality Studies and the Honors College. I particularly enjoy teaching the second-half of the introductory Art History survey (Renaissance to Twentieth Century Art), a large core course that draws students from across campus and for which I was recently awarded a Culturally Inclusive Curriculum grant from my College.

What are the three (3) most important issues you would like to see addressed by the Faculty Senate next year?

The Faculty Senate is an important forum for advocacy to improve the University of Houston.

1. Inclusivity and Equity. As the University works toward a more equitable future, it is important to foreground inclusivity, anti-racism, and gender discrimination in all our endeavors. There have been some incredible institutional strides on this front –the ADVANCE grant of a few years ago is a great example— and we must consistently incorporate this philosophy in everything we do.
2. I believe that the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences have an important role to play in the future of the University, side by side Science, Technology, Engineering, Biomedical, and Energy divisions. As we work to achieve our 50-in-5 goals, the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences are areas where there is a great – but largely untapped –potential for growth and a huge return-on-investment. I hope we can promote the cultural capital of the university so that it is seen as a driving force in our culturally rich city and beyond.
3. The University Daycare – more funding for infrastructure maintenance and to expand the hours back to pre-Covid coverage. The University Daycare plays a vital role in the life of this campus for UH parents (faculty, staff, students and alumni). For Faculty parents in particular, it can be the decisive factor in the ability to conduct research. Therefore I want to consider the daycare as fundamental to the ability to do our work, rather than as a “work-life balance” issue. A well-maintained daycare is also crucial to the recruitment and retention of excellent faculty.