

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

September 22, 2022
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (23).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Maria Botero (CHSS), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Tamara Cook (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Jamie Duran (COE), Damon Hay (COSET), Nicolas Lantz (CHSS), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Sureni Mullegama (COM), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Debbie Price (COE), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM), Rebecca Wentworth (COE).

Guest.

Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (7).

Mario Aschauer (CAM), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Todd Primm (COSET), Darren Williams (COSET).

Special Guests.

Professor Falguni Mukherjee, SHSU Faculty & Staff Ombuds and Professor Aneika Simmons, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Success.

Call to Order

3:30 PM

Professor Mukherjee presented the role and responsibilities of the Office of the Ombuds. She outlined how conflict resolution can be approached through the Ombuds Office and explained the confidentiality of the office. It was mentioned that the Senate played a role in the hatching of the Ombuds Office. Concern was raised about the volume of work. Professor Falguni shared that she already has fully booked time slots for the next month. Recommendations were given for future expansion of the office to extend to students.

Professor Simmons presented on Burnout workshops, PACE Pathfinder mentors and mentees, PACE Newsletter and Campus Connect. Handouts and flyers pertaining to respective information content and contacts were handed out. She encouraged Senators to share information with Faculty for participation in the programs.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2022 meeting were approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

Senator Cook (Chair of AA Committee) presented the review of *APS 810806 Student Educational Records on behalf of the AA committee*. The Committee recommends this policy to be adopted with the following considerations.

1. Section 9.06 seems very broad, vague, and potentially unnecessary. The committee recommends either removing or refining.
2. Consider adding “consent” to the section 2 list of definitions that specifies consent can include written or electronic requests.
3. Consider updating some of the language to reflect the use of technology to handle information. For example:
 - a. In section 3 the policy states that the *Student Guidelines* are "provided each student at orientation and registration..." Is this accurate, or is it just sitting on the SHSU website and a student can access it at will?
 - b. is the definition of "educational record" in 2.02 sufficient for electronic records or information obtainable from databases using the various platforms the university employs, e.g. Banner, Campus Connect, etc.

Faculty Senate approved the recommendation of AA.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

Worked on soliciting names for the following working groups for Provost Office:

1. Working Group tasked with evaluating *APS 900417 Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion of Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty*
2. Working Group tasked with an evaluation of policy that affects non-tenure track
3. Working Group tasked with an evaluation of a proposal to include non-tenure track in Faculty Senate
4. Working Group tasked with an evaluation of faculty workload
5. Working group tasked with an evaluation of “Expiration of Course work/credit examination”

Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Lantz (Chair of FA Committee) presented the revisions to *Faculty Handbook* on behalf of the FA committee. The committee recommended a thorough update of the handbook and fixing of broken links. The committee will continue to work on it and will report at the next meeting. The Senate suggested a completely new write up of the handbook. Recommendations and suggestions should be sent directly to FA committee.

University Affairs Committee

Senator Murfin (Chair of UA Committee) presented the review of *APS 900823 Academic Grievance Procedures for Students* on behalf of the AA committee. The committee recommended adopting the policy with the following considerations:

1. Members of the committee are concerned that faculty are unable to contest a decision. This is particularly problematic in the medical school, where faculty were concerned that overriding faculty judgement could put lives at risk.
2. Other concerns:

2.01a should language be amended to refer also to competency exams and dissertations?

2.01c do we want more specific examples of faculty misconduct or simply to state “such as but not limited to”?

3.01 Members of the committee question if indeed there is a standing Academic Review Panel for each college.

4.01 Clarifying that “in writing” includes email

4.04 change of wording--evidence to supporting documentation (since we don't yet know if it is “evidence”)

4.05 and 4.06. Should the chair submit the documentation forward to the next appeal level rather than the student?

Faculty Senate approved the recommendation of UA

Chair's Report

- Bearkat Bundle Issues
- Updates on recent dismissals.
- Update on creating a process for promotion from adjunct to lecture position more uniform across campus.
- During the end of the Spring semester (2022) **APS 860425 - Designation of Distinguished Professors and PS 810814 - Tenets for Faculty Status of Academic Librarians**, were reviewed by Faculty Senate committees and their feedback was distributed to FS in the meeting documents. Members of FS supported the following recommendations made by this committee via a Qualtrics vote during the following week:
 - Faculty Senate-driven policy was approved by the AAC this past summer: [Modified Instructional Duties for Significant Life Events](#),
 - Updates on IT issues
 - Report from the National Council of Faculty Senates meeting
 - President's proposal for Social Hour
 - Opening call for Faculty in Residency program.
 - President's call for new ideas on alternative forms of education.

New Business

The Chair tasked standing committees to come up with idea (s) for discussion in subsequent meetings that will form the basis for Faculty-Senate Driven Projects.

There were concerns raised about the following:

Faculty Concerns:

- Bearkat Bundle
- Address a lack of consistency between Section 2 of *Evaluation of Chairs* (APS 110511) and Section 1.07 of *The Faculty Evaluation System of Tenured and Tenure Track Faculty* (APS 820317).

Announcements

Changes in Faculty Senate Roster.

Next Meeting

October 13, Peabody Library, 3:30 P.M.

Adjournment:

5:05 PM