

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
April 23, 2009

Members Present: Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Debbi Hatton; Darci Hill; Emmette Jackson; Ann Jerabek; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Bill Lutterschmidt; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Brian Oetiker; Debra Price; Tracy Steele.

Members Absent: Tracy Bilsing; Bill Brewer; Bill Edgington; Bill Jasper; Joseph Neisser; John Newbold; Sam Souryal; Yan Zhang.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Edmonson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the April 2, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

Special Guest (1):

Dr. Heather Crowson, Vice President for Enrollment Management, addressed the Senate commenting current activities and addressing various questions. The issues included:

- Freshman enrollment and the quality of entering student population, specifically relating to mathematics where 60% of our students require developmental math.
- The high school standing of our freshmen, the majority of whom are in the top 11 to 35 percentile rankings.
- Transfer student requirements that recently have been increased. For students with greater than thirty credit hours, our retention rate is 85%, which is better than dual-credit students.
- Staff misperceptions of what faculty do and the reception of faculty concerns and issues, which are often immediate in nature.
- The auditing process and evaluating DARS and course scheduling systems to make them “easier to use.”

Special Guest (2):

Drs. Bill Bridges and Carroll Nardone, Writing in the Disciplines Project, presented the new program that is to replace the current writing requirement in the core. Their efforts include:

- Change to Writing in the Disciplines from Writing Across the Curriculum
- Greatly modifying the structure of our writing efforts.
 - Include annual workshops for faculty (i.e. May 18-22, 2009 workshop.)
 - Re-examine the mission and including more philosophy and purpose.
 - Establish a writing advisory council to review proposed course changes.
 - Initiate an evaluation of the status of “w” courses to find out what constitutes “writing intensive.”
 - Strive to reach national standards with writing as a course component.

Chair's Report:

- The visit with Congressman Kevin Brady was informative and constructive as reported by various components of the university.
- Chair Edmonson met with bookstore personnel to communicate Senate concerns. The bookstore director and Barnes & Noble area representative will come to the next Senate meeting.
- Texas Council of Faculty Senate issued a press release to various newspapers concerning the guns-on-campus legislation that is pending.
- The new University Center property was defined for Senate and a aerial photograph was provided by the administration for our review.
- The Senate resolution concerning transcript evaluation and graduation request approval is being discussed within the administration and they asked for examples/problems to identify and track.

Old Business:

- Safe Zone (Haven) resolution from University Affairs was discussed and passed by voice vote with one dissention. The recommendation follows.
While the Faculty Senate at Sam Houston State University is invested in promoting a safe and tolerant environment for all, it has reservations concerning the division of campus into "safe" and "unsafe" zones. The entire University community should be a safe environment that embraces and encourages diversity. As such, the Senate is committed to working with all groups towards raising awareness of these issues in order to promote tolerance, and to achieve the goal of making the entire campus a safe zone.
- APS900417 Academic Affairs Report. Four changes recommended to Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion policy statement. The Academic Affairs recommendation and report are included as Attachment-2.

New Business:

- Nominations for administrators' awards should be forwarded to Stacey so that they can be placed on the ballot for next meeting's selection process.

Committee Reports:

The suggestion was made by the Chair-Elect that all committee reports include an executive summary for inclusion in the minutes.

• Faculty Affairs:

- The Faculty Affairs report on Service was submitted. Committee recommendations were approved by Senate.

The Faculty Affairs Committee recommends that ALL colleges provide a clearly defined list of service activities that will enable faculty to achieve top ranking service scores. Moreover, it is important that these activities represent realistic aspirations of ALL faculty, including new faculty who have not yet established themselves within organizations in their academic fields.

- The full report is included as the third attachment.

- University Affairs:
 - No report.
- Academic Affairs:
 - No report.
- Committee on Committees:
 - The Faculty Survey Report was compiled by the Committee on Committee from the Senate survey responses recently completed by the faculty. General discussion followed relating to the findings of the survey. Note that faculty salary, FES and IDEA, three related issues, group as the lowest ranked items among the fifty considered. The general sense was that the survey accurately identifies issues that should be addressed by next year's Senate. Not only the rankings but also the small standard deviation highlight these concerns. More focused discussion followed concerning the validity of using IDEA system data in salary promotion and tenure decisions.

Although the summarized findings are available on-line and to the general public, the comments are only available for review in the offices of Chair Edmonson, Chair-elect Loeffler, and Committee Chair Kohers.

- The Senate Election results were announced as follows:

Chad Hargrave	Arts & Sciences
Carol James	Arts & Sciences
Hee-jong Joo	Criminal Justice
Mark Frank	Business Administration
Donald Bumpass	Business Administration
Rebecca Bustamante	Education
Leonard Breen	Education
Donna Desforges	Humanities and Social Sciences
Tracy Steele	Humanities and Social Sciences
Erin Cassidy	Newton Grisham Library
Thomas Cox*	Humanities and Social Sciences

*term opened through resignation, expiring in 2011

- Committee nominations report was submitted and was approved. It is also attached to the minutes.

Next meeting

- The May 7th meeting will be the last for this year.

Senate adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Loeffler.

Attachment 1:

Statistical information related to Senate discussions during the April 23rd Senate meeting subsequently provided by Dr. Crowson in a communication on Friday, April 24, 2009. The following comments and the table were obtained from this e-mail addressed to Drs. Edmonson and Loeffler.

I have attached the enrollment information compiled by Institutional Research as discussed yesterday in the Faculty Senate meeting.

After talking with Trevor Thorn, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, it was discovered around April 15, 2009 from a request by Dr. Deshaw that the incorrect information had been submitted to the College Board in relation to the HS quartile enrollment percentages for SHSU. The College Board data was used in the research referenced by Dr. Deshaw. At that time Mr. Thorn worked with the institutional research office on campus to re-submit the correct information. That information was re-submitted by Dr. Rita Caso (the person completing the survey initially for SHSU), and should be correct at this time.

I would like to request the chart and any appropriate text be submitted to the meeting minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on April 23, 2009.

Freshman Cohort High School Quartiles	FY 04 03 Cohort	FY 05 04 Cohort	FY 06 05 Cohort	FY 07 06 Cohort	FY 08 07 Cohort	FY 09 Annual 08 Cohort
Enrolled total	1,832	2,144	2,217	2,224	2,263	2,143
HS quartile 1st	597	848	894	871	938	889
HS quartile 2nd	513	738	815	848	795	778
HS quartile 3rd	228	320	376	367	348	309
HS quartile 4th	24	34	30	33	31	44
Enrolled total	1,832	2,144	2,217	2,224	2,263	2,143
HS quartile 1st	32.59%	39.55%	40.32%	39.16%	41.45%	41.48%
HS quartile 2nd	28.00%	34.42%	36.76%	38.13%	35.13%	36.30%
HS quartile 3rd	12.45%	14.93%	16.96%	16.50%	15.38%	14.42%
HS quartile 4th	1.31%	1.59%	1.35%	1.48%	1.37%	2.05%

Attachment 2:

University Affairs Committee recommendations concerning APS 099417, Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion