



**University Faculty Senate Minutes
Sam Houston State University
October 30, 2003**

Members present: Christopher Baldwin, Terry Bilhartz, James Carter, Stacey Edmonson (and son Andrew), Mary Gutermuth, Mark Frank, Marsha Harman, David Henderson Lady Jane Hickey, Joe Kirk, Gerald Kohers, S. Thomas Kordinak, Paul Loeffler, Valerie Muehsam, Kandi Tayebi, Tamara Waggener, Christopher White, Patricia Williams

Member absent: David Bailey (illness), Steven Cuvelier (professional conflict), Mary Lynn DeShazo (illness), Penny Hasekoester (personal conflict), Deborah Hatton (illness), Holly Miller (professional conflict), Debra Price (professional conflict)

Guest Speaker: Dr. David Burris, Computer Science

Dr. Burris presented information regarding the evolution of articulation agreements with area community colleges. His work provides for a positive relationship between SHSU and the community college, which in turn, benefits the transferring student. Dr. Burris asked the Senate to explore possible work scholarships for outstanding transfer students, similar to those provided by Stephen F. Austin State University. [Although Senators were impressed with Dr. Burris' presentation, several expressed concerns regarding from where the money would be gleaned and if existing programs would suffer. This issue will be assigned to a committee at the next meeting.]

Approval of Minutes

Emendations for the minutes of October 16th were approved.

Chair's Report

APC Meeting:

No APC Meeting this week.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS)

Chair Tayebi and Chair-elect Harman attended the TCFS in Austin on October 24th and 25th. Some of the issues other universities are managing are similar to those SHSU is experiencing such as teaching load, budget crunch, etc. However, in some ways, particularly financially, SHSU is better situated.

New Business

Anti-Discrimination Policy

At the TCFS, all universities were asked to take an issue back to their respective senates and vote on whether to include the phrase, *sexual orientation*, in the anti-discrimination clause published by State of Texas agencies, including The Texas State University System. A motion from SHSU Senate was forthcoming and seconded to include the term, *sexual orientation*, in the anti-discrimination policy. The motion carried 16/1.

New Faculty Organization

Chair Tayebi had been asked to announce that there is a new faculty organization forming. A chapter of the Texas Faculty Association (TFA) is being organized with Hugh Fullerton, Ruth Pate, and Julie Hall as officers.

Old Business

Funding for ORP for Faculty Hired after 1995

Statistics gathered by Pam Henderson of Payroll regarding the University's ORP contribution documented 169 who are affected by the 6.0% rate. To rectify the discrepancy would require the University to contribute \$ 229,639.49 more. More data will be gathered examining minority status among the 169 affected faculty.

Faculty Morale

The proposed faculty morale survey was presented by Senator Kordinak. More discussion ensued, and the Committee on Committees will now assume the project.

Committee Reports

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Harman, Chair-Elect