

# **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

## **SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **November 19, 2009**

#### **Members Present**

Leonard Breen; Donald Bumpass; Erin Cassidy; Jeff Crane; Mark Frank; Deborah Hatton; Bill Jasper; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Brian Oetiker; Tracy Steele; Doug Ullrich.

#### **Members Absent**

Bill Brewer; Rebecca Bustamante; Donna Desforges; Chad Hargrave; Darci Hill; Mack Hines; Renee James; Hee-jong Joo; Ling Ren;

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Loeffler called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 5, 2009 meeting were approved.

#### **Special Guest: Vicki Barrilleaux from Undergraduate Admissions**

Vicki Barrilleaux discussed with the Faculty Senate her desire to have a cancer awareness month at SHSU. This would likely take place in April, with planning beginning in January. Faculty volunteers will be needed. The senate was highly supportive of these efforts; the Committee on Committees agreed to provide support in the organization of faculty committee volunteers.

#### **Chair's Report**

- Chair-Elect Frank reported from the November 12 meeting with Provost Payne
  - Provost Payne said approval for a new College of Arts and Communications is pending; the university should know by the end of this semester.
  - Provost Payne was supportive of the Faculty Senate's interest in traffic safety, though cautioned that State Highway 75 presents complications. Payne was also supportive of the senate's concerns regarding the exclusive use of the IDEA system in the Chair's Evaluation of Effective Teaching (FES 1).
  - Provost Payne also updated the senate on several issues: the launching of the new website for Sam Houston State University had to be delayed; the planning committee for a new classroom facility in The Woodlands is moving forward; the university is discussing efforts to earn the Carnegie classification for Community Engagement.
- Chair Loeffler reported from his meeting with Associate Provost Eglsaer
  - Associate Provost Eglsaer discussed efforts to bring service to a higher profile, including incorporating community service components into the newly revised Faculty Evaluation System (Academic Policy 820317, [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/820317\\_001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/820317_001.pdf)).

- Associate Provost Eglsaer also discussed ongoing efforts to increase oral communications in the core curriculum, a push to separate advancement from the merit-increase pool, and the dropping of the faculty lounge from current construction projects.
- Chair Loeffler reported from his meeting with Mayor Turner:
  - Mayor Turner was receptive to the idea of panel hosted by the Faculty Senate to discuss traffic safety issues around campus. The possibilities panel participants include representatives from the city of Huntsville, the Texas Department of Transportation, and Sam Houston State University. Senator Breen discussed the University Affairs committee's progress on identifying troubled areas in and around campus.

### **Old Business**

- Several senators reported that the university will provide dual use of Blackboard and eCollege for the spring semester, with the singular use of eCollege after the spring semester.
- The Distance Education Committee will include two senators, Senator Miller and Senator Frank.

### **New Business**

- The senate discussed problems with the current draft of a new university homepage ([http://www.shsu.edu/~shsu\\_web/](http://www.shsu.edu/~shsu_web/)). Concerns were raised on the lack of academic content and limited faculty input. Specific complaints centered on the exclusion of a link to the library on the homepage, and the omission of a quick-links drop-down menu. The Faculty Senate passed unanimously a resolution concerning the exclusion of the library from the homepage (see attachment). The senate also began work on a tentative resolution regarding senate input prior to the homepage going online.
- Senator Hatton forwarded to the senate concerns from some faculty over the aggressive nature of the current faculty/staff annual fund campaign.

### **Committee Reports**

- The Committee on Committees received approval to fill positions on three university committees: Athletics Advisory Committee, Newton Gresham Library Committee, and the Parking Appeals Committee.
- Due to time constraints, the remaining committee reports were delayed until the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

**Senate adjourned at 5:02pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect

## **Faculty Senate Resolution Concerning the Newton Gresham Library on the New SHSU Homepage**

The Faculty Senate resolves that the new university homepage should include the Newton Gresham Library, representing one of the major academic components of the institution.

Adopted Unanimously, November 19, 2009

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Paul Loeffler, Chair

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Mark Frank, Chair-Elect