

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2005**

Senators Present: Valerie Muehsam; Philip Morris; Jim DeShaw; Chris White; Debbie Hatton; Gerald Kohers; Mark Frank; Bill Lutterschmidt; Lady Jane Hickey; David Henderson; David Bailey; Tom Kordinak; JUoan Hudson; Paul Loeffler; Mary Gutermuth; Holly Miller; Peggy DeMars; Steven Cuvelier; Marsha Harman; Joe Kirk.

Senators Absent: Chris Baldwin (professional conflict); Jim Carter (family illness); Stacey Edmonson (professional conflict); Debra Price (professional conflict); Gary Smith (professional conflict); Patricia Williams (professional conflict).

Chair Harman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She introduced two guests from China. Drs. Li and Shue from two different Chinese Universities who were attending as observers. Dr. Gee from SHSU served as their interpreter

She then introduced Rosanne Keathley and Michelle Louthery from the SHSU Department of Health and Kinesiology who presented the report from the Alcohol Abuse Initiative Committee and also spoke of the Task Force, the Intercept, and the RID Committee. Students are to receive e-mails over the holidays to combat irresponsible drinking.

The faculty is being asked to help with the problem of alcohol consumption by students. One suggestion is that Faculty could have more classes on Friday, make at risk referrals to Counseling and Student Services, serve as positive role models, make comments in class about drinking alcohol responsibly. A Harvard report indicates that 34% of all students engage in binge drinking and 35% drink and drive.

Chair Kohers of the Committee on Committees then reported that the faculty committee preference survey will go out to the faculty via e-mail this year with hard copies to be available from departmental offices as well.

Chair Loeffler of the Academic Affairs Committee reported that there appeared to be some confusion in the sequence of actions described in the revised Faculty Grievance Procedure and that the Academic Affairs Committee was suggesting a realignment of several sections of the revised Faculty Grievance Policy.

Chair Loeffler also reported that the Grievance Hearing Committee should be clearly differentiated from the Faculty Grievance Committee. Consequently, the Academic Affairs Committee suggested that changing the name of the Grievance Hearing Committee to the Grievance Hearing Subcommittee would eliminate some of the confusion.

Chair Loeffler indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee suggested that there was an issue of concern with the President selecting the members of the Grievance Hearing Committee and potentially leaving the President open to charges of stacking the committee. The Academic Affairs Committee suggested that the members of the Grievance Hearing Committee should be selected randomly or selected under some rotating system from the pool of Faculty Grievance Committee members, all of whom are Presidential appointees. These suggestions were accepted by the Faculty Senate and will be transmitted to Provost Payne.

Chair Loeffler also brought a question from two constituents in two different colleges about the manner of selecting Chairs of Departments. Current policy appears to be interpreted differently in these colleges and he asked Chair Harman to assign the question to an appropriate committee. Chair Harman referred the question to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

University Affairs Committee Chair Mark Frank reported on the question of prayer and presented a suggested policy. The prayer policy will be reconsidered when there is clarification about the meaning of non-denominational and non-sectarian.

Chair Frank then presented a preliminary report on faculty overloads noting there appear to be many inequities in the current policy and that this may be because the current policy is too vague. The University Affairs Committee proposes an appropriate proportional payment schedule for full time faculty members at least equivalent to what adjuncts receive.

The University Affairs Committee also reported that permission to use the Free Speech Area properly belongs to the University police Department.

Chair Harman reported on a student resignation policy written by Vice President Thieleman. Senate comments on this rather complicated policy will be presented to Provost Payne.

A question about the number of dissertations, theses and special readings appropriate for receiving release time was referred to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Faculty Affairs was also assigned the task of determining from which College and/or departments Freedom of Information Acts are being generated.

Chair Harman noted that there is concern about student and faculty engagement and the matter was referred for further discussion at another time.

The Senate adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Gutermuth/Jim Carter