

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
February 26, 2009

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

Members Absent: Bill Brewer; Bill Edgington; Mark Frank; Andrew Lopenzina; Joseph Neisser; John Newbold; Sam Souryal.

Call to Order:

Senator Price called the meeting to order. Drs. Edmonson and Loeffler were late due to a scheduled interview with a candidate for Vice President for Finance and Operations.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the February 12, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

Special Guest:

Dr. Heather Crowson, Vice President for Enrollment Management, our scheduled guest, could not attend due to illness.

Chair's Report:

- Dr. Payne meeting
 - The Higher Education Holdings (HEH) partnership is still under review as SHSU administration is currently hesitant to engage in this private-public partnership before resolution of concerns relating to distribution of decision-making authority. Maintaining academic integrity and control over academic decisions is of highest priority. Dr. Edmonson elaborated on the general concept and the nature of the respective roles.
 - Contracts and Grants, formally under Finance and Operations, will join Office Research and Sponsored Programs under Academic Affairs to better coordinate pre-award and post-award functions.
 - The new Emeritus structure adopted by the Board of Regents will be incorporated into the SHSU ranks. The four new ranks will include: Regents Distinguished Emeritus, Regents Emeritus, University Distinguished Emeritus, and University Emeritus Professors. Descriptions of these positions are being developed.
 - May 2009 graduation ceremonies will have two colleges, HSS and A&S, separated by department to balance attendance. This is being done to maintain fire code compliance. Next year we should anticipate five ceremonies.
 - The new Chairperson in Political Science will be Dr. Rhonda Calloway.
 - The Department of History was successful in attracting a prominent scholar, Dr. Nicolass Rupke to our campus beginning Fall 2009.

- Some proposed doctoral programs were not approved by the Coordinating Board and the administration has submitted a response and the university should be afforded off-cycle re-evaluations. The Ed.D. program in Instructional Technology was given planning authority.
- The Vice President for Finance and Operations interviews are going well. There are three external candidates with substantial resumes.

Old Business:

• Calendar Task Force Meeting

- The newly formed task force, which includes five representatives from Senate, will have its first meeting next Monday.
- With respect to the Spring-2011 calendar, classes will begin on Wednesday, not Tuesday. This recommendation was proposed by Senate representatives on the special calendar review committee. Dr. Eglsaer made the decision to implement this recommendation which will result in both MWF and TuTh classes having fewer than 45 on-ground hours. He indicated that faculty will be accepting responsibility for alternative instruction such that the requirement for the equivalent of 45 hours of classroom instruction will have been met. Floor discussion followed.
 - o This can easily be done as faculty are currently incorporating nontraditional instructional activities.
 - o This provides the opportunity to introduce the students to the Newton Grisham Library.
 - o Service-learning projects and field experiences are easily adapted to address this responsibility.
 - o Blackboard and the level of SHSU's technical support expand our options for instruction.

• Articulation Agreements

- This issue is in reference to actions that have transpired since last meeting when Senate addressed Dr. Doug Urlich's inquiry concerning problems with transfer credit. Senate had directed him to Dr. David Burris, a person whom Senate felt had the proper background to explain university policies and procedures.
- The issue is evidently related to a change in policy such that the Registrar's office is now evaluating transcripts prior to graduation, stopping transfer course allocations that had been granted by Admissions or the Advising Center, and subsequently rejecting students' graduation requests at a late date.
- Discussion followed. In summary, although there are numerous similar difficulties and associated issues, it appears that the questions of which office designates or certifies course equivalency as well as when the final decision is made and communicated to the student are the foci of this "problem."
- A motion to help resolve this issue was made and seconded. Motion was passed unanimously. The intent is to establish early and final decisions that will be communicated to students and better serve their interests.

Senate Resolution:

Senate recommends that courses be certified within one semester of transfer to SHSU rather than the semester prior to or of graduation.

Transcripts that are designated “core complete” should be certified within one semester.

New Business:

- Students with special needs, specifically post-traumatic stress syndrome
 - Senator Hatton spoke to the issue from personal experience with a student and subsequently with the administration. The concern is that instructors need to know how to deal with students coming back from the war and which office to notify so that professional help can be obtained.
 - Discussion followed.
 - Senator Price indicated that the PACE center should be able to help faculty, Others agreed that they should have a procedure in place to address this as well as other classroom management opportunities.
 - It was the general sense of the Senate that Chair Edmonson should discuss this with Provost Payne and Dr. Harmon, the PACE Director.

- Eligibility for Teaching Excellence, Service, and Research Awards
 - Associate Vice President Eglsear requested that Senate provide a recommendation concerning faculty eligibility for these awards, specifically whether administrators such as Associate Deans, Chairs and Coordinators should be eligible.
 - Discussion followed and a subsequent recommendation was made. It is noted that individuals in question would be tenured faculty who had been selected for administrative reassigned-time as a part of the duties nominally recognized by Texas Education Code, namely teaching, research, service, and administration.
 - It was noted that a precise definition of “faculty” had been made by the administration in previously years discussions of “post-tenure review.”

Senate Resolution:

The standards for eligibility of senior faculty or administrators for faculty awards should be determined by the same standards applied to Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty, that is full participation in PETF. If upper administration has designated the individual as one who must stand for “post-tenure review” in the regular five-year cycle with his/her colleagues, then the administration has determined that the senior faculty member in question is also eligible for consideration for faculty awards.

- Guns on Campus, Channel 7
 - A short discussion of the new law under consideration by the legislature allowing those students with “carry permits” to have concealed weapons on campus.
 - Note: Subsequent to the formal Senate meeting Senators were asked to contact faculty colleagues concerning pending legislation in Austin.
 - Numerous Senators responded by e-mail to assist Drs. Edmonson and Loeffler who were to attend the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.

- Faculty Senate Survey
 - Several additional or alternate questions were proposed for the 2009 survey. Most of the issues discussed related to semester's calendar, its development process, and schedule details. As a task force with Senate representation is in place to address this global issue; the 2008 survey questions were not modified.

Committee Reports:

- Faculty Affairs:
 - No report.
- University Affairs:
 - University Affairs Committee Summary Report on the LSC Bookstore Survey.
 - The report is to be an agenda item for floor discussion at the March 19th meeting.
- Academic Affairs:
 - No report.
- Committee on Committees:
 - Faculty Survey is to be sent to the faculty. Responses have been received and the ballot is being prepared for the Spring-2009 Senate election.

Senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Loeffler.