

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 9, 2006**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Members Present: Doug Constance, Peggy DeMers, James DeShaw, Jerry Dowling, Mary Gutermuth, Deborah Hatton, Lady Jane Hickey, Rosanne Keathley, Gerald Kohers, Paul Loeffler, Brian Loft, Valerie Muehsam, Debra Price, Jay Whatley, Christopher White, and Patricia Williams

Members Absent: David Bailey, Christopher Baldwin, Jerry Cook, Linda Cook, Steven Cuvelier, Stacey Edmonson, Mark Frank, Joan Hudson, Philip Morris

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting were approved (Senator Dowling made the motion, Senator Hatton seconded the motion-approved unanimously)

Minutes of the January 19, 2006 meeting were approved (Senator Dowling made the motion, Senator Hatton seconded the motion, approved unanimously)

Chair's Report:

Faculty Senate Chair Debra Price presented the following reports to the Faculty Senate:

- Introduced Educational Leadership and Counseling Doctoral Candidate LingLing Yang as guest of the Senate.
- Distributed *New York Times* (February 9, 2006) article, *Panel Explores Standard Tests for Colleges*, to Senators.
- The APC did not meet this month.
- SACS Update:
 - Dr. John Schmidt will conduct a presentation for faculty on February 22, 2006 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in room 320 of the LSC.
 - The Leadership Committee met on February 9, 2006 to discuss the SACS report development process.
 - Letters will be sent next week notifying members of the Compliance Committee.
- Chair Price attended the State Faculty Senate Meeting in Austin:
 - Ken Craycraft discussed the issue of inflated textbook costs, changes of texts within a five year period, and textbook revisions This concern was expressed by the Texas State University System Student Government Association.
 - Ken Craycraft stated that the Texas Legislature will be involved with this issue and he is seeking faculty input regarding textbook costs and selection process.
 - Chair Price stated that she wanted factual information rather than anecdotal input regarding the issue.
 - President Gaertner suggested that SH develop and administer a study to investigate the severity of inflated textbook costs.

- There were not enough Senators to make a quorum for the January 26, 2006 meeting.
- Drs. Marsha Harmon and Ron Primm discussed the development of the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center. M. Harmon will convene a task force to determine the mission, strategic goals, implementation timeline, and governance of the Center.

New Business:

- IDEA Concerns: Dr. Muehsam will conduct visits with all of the colleges to address the concerns of the administration of the fall IDEA evaluations.
Input from the Faculty Senate included:
 - Chair Price stated that comparisons of scores were not based on specific disciplines, but rather entire colleges.
 - Senator Hatton stated that the Speech Department faculty has not yet received the results of the Fall 2005 evaluations.
 - Senator Muehsam reported that a faculty member in the College of Business repeated their specific course objectives during each class period and their evaluation scores were high.
 - Senator Dowling referred to his previous results and used those objectives that received positive marks as objectives for the fall evaluation period.
 - Chair Price said that the Dean's Council has requested that faculty be given a minimum of four weeks to complete the evaluations by the end of the semester and for a timeline for implementation.
 - Senator Loeffler asked what was the actual cost per student for the printing, administration, analysis, and summation of the IDEA system compared to the 7-point scale previously used by the university.
 - Senator Whatley expressed concern for the manner in which the results of the previous evaluations will effect tenure and promotion for the non-tenured faculty.
 - Chair Price stated Provost Payne will address these issues during the February 23rd Faculty Senate meeting.

Old Business:

- Hangtag Parking Permits:
 - Chair Price discussed the request made by Staff council regarding Faculty Senate support of transportable hangtag parking permits. Replacement cost for lost or stolen hangtags will be \$15.00. The original cost of the hangtags will be \$75 vs. the \$60 for the present system. The difference is \$15.
 - Senator Loeffler reminded Senators that the request was made by the Staff Council and they needed our support to have this process pass.
 - Senator DeShaw made the motion to support the hangtags, seconded by Senator Loeffler, approved with 14:1 vote.

Committee Reports:

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

- *Academic Affairs*: Committee Chair Patricia Williams brought forth the academic calendar issue with the guidelines from the Coordinating Board which states that classes hold 15 weeks of instruction with 45 contact hours and one week of finals. The Committee analyzed calendars from several universities and found that SH was in line with other universities and is in compliance with the Coordinating Board. Senator Williams stated that the committee will meet to determine the exact number of contact hours via face to face or the distance learning format. Senator Williams stated she received a letter from a faculty member regarding the manner in which faculty office hours are maintained. The faculty suggested that e-mails, hours at the University Center, cell phones, or other remote sites could be suitable sources for fulfilling the office hour requirements. Input from the Senate clearly stated that the contact hours need to be flexible and represent the changing dynamics of the university's academic delivery system. Faculty Senate Chair Price requested the Academic Affairs Committee investigate the existing policy and make recommendations to update the guidelines. Senator Williams received an additional letter from a faculty member requesting that the Senate add a grandfather clause to the graduate faculty policy. The faculty member was worried that the time factor stated in the policy was inadequate for faculty development. Chair Price stated that the Graduate Faculty Committee is currently reviewing this issue and that the department chairs can make a stand for their faculty to receive graduate faculty status.
- *Committee on Committees*: Committee Chair Gerald Kohers stated that the committee had nothing to report.
- *Faculty Affairs*: Committee Chair Deborah Hatton distributed the IDEA System Resolution draft. Chair Hatton stated that the resolution implementation plan coincides with the SH Institutional Research time line schedule. Several problems occurred during the fall 2005 semester in respect to survey printing, distribution, and completion. The surveys were printed in-house within the Office of Institutional Research. Completed surveys were mailed to Kansas, scored, and then returned to the University. The IDEA Institute recommends that each university have their own IDEA Office to facilitate this time constraint. Faculty Senate Chair Price suggested that the last sentence of the Resolution be changed to "by the last class day of the semester" rather than "no later than one week prior to the beginning of finals." Chair Price called for a vote to accept or reject the resolution. The resolution was approved with a 13:1 vote. Committee Chair Hatton explained the Recommendation of Merit Raise Allocations table to the senators. Suggestions were made to include "\$" on left column under average column. After reviewing the document, senators stated that both tracks should have a balance of money allocated and that student credit hours should be considered in the merit funding allocation within particular colleges. Other senators disagreed with these statements. The overarching concern from the Senate was the fact that department chairs have received significant merit

increases in addition to a chair stipend. Chair Price commented that the APC is considering readjusting the weights associated with faculty merit. Senator Kohers suggested that the recommendation vote be tabled until the next Senate meeting. Committee Chair Hatton stated that the issue of merit allocations awarded to department chairs will be further analyzed by the Committee.

- *University Affairs:* Committee Chair Jerry Dowling stated that the committee is developing faculty salary comparison algorithms and they will present their findings during the next Senate meeting.

Senate Input:

The Faculty Senate discussed the following issues:

- *Resignation of Senator David Bailey:* Faculty Senate Chair Price stated the David Bailey has submitted a letter of resignation from his senate position leaving an opening from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Chair Price said that the next candidate for office was a “write-in.” Senator Gutermuth commented that both the resignation format and the write-in candidate issues were in violation of the Senate by-laws. The Senator also remarked that the Committee on Committees is currently reviewing the by-laws. Senator Kohers suggested that the Senate let the resignation remain due to attrition for the remainder of the spring semester.
- *Faculty Senate Reassigned Time:* Senator Loeffler suggested that the academic deans and university administrators allow faculty to receive reassigned time for their participation in the Faculty Senate. Senator White asked how many (if any) academic deans gave FES credit for faculty serving on the Senate. No committees volunteered or were asked to pursue this suggestion.
- *College Committee Service Opportunities:* Senator Williams distributed a table illustrating the COE committees. The document was developed by Dean Brown and stated the mission, goals, number of faculty members, and term requirements of each committee.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanne S. Keathley, College of Education