

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Draft

September 5, 2024
3:30 PM-5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (23)

Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Emma Bullock (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA)

Guests

Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (7)

Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Diana Brown (COBA), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS), Dieu Truong (CHSS)

Special Guests

Dr. Michael T. Stephenson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Anne Gaillard, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Dr. Chad Hargrave, Vice President for Research and Strategic Partnerships and Chief Research Officer

Called to Order

3:30 PM, by Outgoing Chair, Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET). Meeting turned over to current Chair of the Senate, Zachary Valdes.

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Senators

Dr. Adu-Prah presented certificates to outgoing senators. Provost Stephenson presented a plaque to Outgoing Chair Adu-Prah.

Discussion with Special Guests, Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Gaillard, and Dr. Hargrave

In response to a question about communication and merit raises, Dr. Stephenson shared that President White had hoped last year that enrollment would increase, and delayed her decision about merit raises accordingly; however, enrollment is down. The Provost does not expect a hiring freeze.

Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Gaillard addressed reasons why our enrollment may be down compared to other TSUS campuses. Some campuses benefitted from dual credit enrollment. Dr. Gaillard shared the hypothesis that raising the threshold for automatic admission caused some potential freshmen to apply elsewhere. This threshold has been lowered again for Fall 2025.

Senators raised concerns about service departments not serving faculty needs, particularly the new IT policy that only allows one device.

Dr. Hargrave shared that the call for internal grants is active. Eureka money is now embedded into all internal grants with an undergraduate supplement. Last year we won 32 million in grant awards. Look for an announcement in a couple of weeks about Bridge: Provost Innovation Fund, Centers of Excellence: Interdisciplinary Collaborative Proposals to build a center.

Self-Introduction of Senators

Senators introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 25, 2024 minutes were approved.

Faculty Senate Standing Committees

Each subcommittee elected a chair.

New Business

The chair of Faculty Senate assigned policy reviews to the subcommittees. Nominations are needed for Work Groups for 3 policies: APS 240821 – Export Control; APS 950809 – Conflicts of Interest in Research; APS 24XXXX – Faculty Residency.

Chair's Report

Policy Review Status Updates: Implementing new component to policy review lifecycle, which will feature status updates to Faculty Senate as senate-reviewed policies move through Academic Affairs Council processes. Senators were provided documentation on the new initiative for a Polytechnic College. Dr. White to visit with Faculty Senate on October 10th. Requesting volunteer to assist with taking minutes at September 19th meeting.

Announcements

Faculty with issues about Bearkat Bundle should send them to Senator Miltonette Craig and she will pass them to the Bookstore.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51.