

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
April 20, 2006**

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

Members Present: Doug Constance; Jerry Dowling; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Mary Gutermuth; Debbi Hatton; LadyJane Hickey; Joan Hudson; Gerald Kohers; Brian Loft; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Debra Price; Chris White; Jay Whatley; Patricia Williams.

Members Absent: David Bailey; Christopher Baldwin; Jerry Cook; Linda Cook; Steven Cuvelier; Peggy DeMers; Jim DeShaw; Rosanne Keathley; Paul Loeffler.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 30, 2006 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report:

Faculty Senate Chair Debbie Price presented the following report to the Faculty Senate:

- There was no Academic Policy Council (APC) meeting this month.
- The Council of Academic Deans has requested that merit and market adjustment pay be distributed to the individual colleges in a lump-sum amount. Then, the individual colleges will make the decisions concerning the distributions of those monies.

Committee Reports:

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

- Committee on Committees. Committee on Committees Committee Chair Gerald Kohers gave a brief report about the Senate Election. The election is online and will continue until April 23. Thus far there have been no problems or complaints with the online process. The Faculty Survey and the Development Leave Committee Ballot will be placed online after the Senate Election is complete.
- University Affairs. Committee member Jerry Dowling presented the committee's report on faculty compensation at SHSU. The report was an in-depth examination of salaries by college and rank and also included a look at salaries at similar schools in this area. Senator Dowling stated that given the number of variables included, a comprehensive study of salaries would require professional assistance. However, based on the data, the committee concluded that it appeared beginning salaries at SHSU are a function of market forces, that senior faculty salaries are less driven by the market, and that on average SHSU is competitive with similar schools as to new hires. Senator Dowling further stated that it was the opinion of the committee that SHSU should examine salaries at the departmental level rather than at the college or university level because of the dramatic differences in market issues between departments. Senator Dowling concluded by stating that the Committee was not making any recommendations and that the report was prepared and presented in the interest of informing the Senate.
- Faculty Affairs. Committee Chair Debbi Hatton reported that the committee had no report this week.

- Academic Affairs. Committee Chair Patricia Williams, aided by Senate Chair Debbie Price, reported on the issue of the Graduate Faculty Status Policy. This was a lengthy report that dealt with specific questions that the committee had asked of Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies Mitchell Muehsam and various information that came from Graduate Council and Doctoral Advisory Council meetings. In addition, Senator Williams handed out information concerning the committees' work on the Office Hour Policy. This information was not discussed due to lack of time, but will be addressed at the next meeting.

Senate Input:

Chair Debbie Price provided an opportunity for Senators to address any issue of interest that wasn't on the agenda. There was no input.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Old Business:

Faculty Affairs Committee Chair Debbi Hatton presented a response to the Minority Report that was distributed at the March 30th meeting.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip W. Morris, Chair-Elect.