FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
April 8, 2010

Members Present
Leonard Breen; Donald Bumpass; Erin Cassidy; Jeff Crane; Donna Desforges; Mark Frank; Deborah Hatton; Mack Hines; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Ling Ren; Tracy Steele; Doug Ullrich.

Members Absent
Bill Brewer; Rebecca Bustamante; Chad Hargrave; Darci Hill; Renee James; Bill Jasper; Hee-jong Joo;

Call to Order
Chair Loeffler called the meeting to order at 3:34pm.

Special Guest: Dr. Keri Rogers, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs – Student Services
- Dr. Rogers presented to the Faculty Senate an update on student success initiatives at the university (see the attachment to these minutes). This includes the expansion to sophomores, transfer students, and students who are or were a foster, orphan, or ward of the state. Dr. Rogers explained the technical differences between student retention, student persistence, and success. Dr. Rogers emphasized that faculty can help by continuing to participate with students, and by knowing where to send students for additional help.
    - In response to a question from the senate, Dr. Rogers noted that while online distance education is valuable to students who cannot get to campus, students living on or near campus often benefit from the one-on-one classroom environment.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the March 25, 2009 meeting were approved with corrections.

Chair's Report
- Chair-Elect Frank reported from the March 29th meeting with Provost Payne:
    - In response to suggestions for reorganization of the research-grant awarding committee into multiple committees, Provost Payne suggested the use of committees based on functional areas. For example, grant proposals could be divided between the sciences (physics, chemistry, etc.) and the liberal arts (humanities, dance, theater, etc.).
    - The office of distance education (DELTA) has hired two additional people out of revenues generated from the growth in online enrollment.
    - The university has put in a request to pick up most of the majors left behind from the departure of UH, UH Downtown, and Prairie View A&M from The University Center in The Woodlands.

- The university has received preliminary approval to offer a Ph.D. in developmental education. Proposals for sociology and nursing continue to be ongoing.
- Dr. Brian McCall has been named the sole finalist for the position of Chancellor of the Texas State University System.

- Chair Loeffler reported from the APC meeting:
  - The academic policy on student probation and suspension was discussed. Students with a 2.0 or less grade point average will be placed on probation for the first semester, and suspended after two semesters. Students will also be suspended if the fail to make the grade of at least C in a developmental course on the second attempt.
  - The APC also discussed revisions to the faculty emeritus policy and the distinguished faculty policy.

- Chair Loeffler reported from the April 7th University Budget Committee meeting:
  - The University Budget Committee approved the fiscal year 2011 university budget plan. This plan was based on the assumption of 2% growth in undergraduate enrollment, and 5% growth in graduate enrollment. Both are thought to be conservative estimates.
  - The budget does includes a 3% merit pool for faculty.

New Business
- The Faculty Senate discussed ways to increase institutional knowledge within the University Curriculum Committee, and approved the following recommendation on the term for the Chair of the University Curriculum Committee:

  The Faculty Senate requests that the senate nomination for Chair of the University Curriculum Committee serve one year as chair-elect, followed by one year as chair.

- Chair-Elect Frank updated the Faculty Senate on the presidential search. The search committee met during the week, and performed an initial screening of applicants. Over the next three weeks, the references for these candidates will be contacted and interviewed by members of the committee. It is anticipated that the search committee will reconvene during the week of May 3 – 7 to select a small number of candidates to bring for on campus interviews.

Committee Reports
- The Committee on Committees circulated the results from the annual Faculty Senate Survey. The numerical results from the survey will be given to the provost and placed on the Faculty Senate webpage (http://www.shsu.edu/~org_sen/survey/index.html). The written comments will be distributed to the faculty senate leadership, the provost, and relevant administrators, but in accordance with senate guidelines, will not be placed online or distributed to the faculty.

- Due to time constraints, the remaining committee reports were delayed until the next Faculty Senate meeting**.**

Senate adjourned at 5:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect

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Freshmen

Challenges

- Academic Adjustments
- Freedom
- Transition from High School to College
- Sense of Belonging
- Money Management

SHSU Interventions

- SAM 136—Introduction to Collegiate Studies
- Learning Communities—Bearkat Learning Community & Freshman Learning Community
- New Student Convocation—August 21, 5:30 pm, Coliseum
- Bearkats Read to Succeed—Common Reader Program
- SAM Center—Advising & Mentoring
- Student Money Management Center
- Academic Support Centers & Tutoring
- Communication with Parents
- Orientation & Bearkat Camp

Freshman Data (Fall, 2009)

- One-year retention rate for F08 to F09 was 75% (a 5% increase since the FYE program began in F04).
- The retention rate for the learning communities for F08 to F09 was 78%.
- Even though many SAM 136 students are considered more at-risk than the overall freshman class, they are consistently retained at or above the overall freshman retention rate.
- The six-year graduation rate for SHSU was 45% for the F03 class.
- The five-year graduation rate for learning communities was 44% for the F04 class.

Sophomore Success

Challenges

- The Sophomore Slump
- Academic Deficiencies
- Academic Disengagement
- Dissatisfaction with the Collegiate Experience
- Major and Career Indecision
- Developmental Confusion

SHSU Interventions

- Exploring Majors Fair
- Career Services—Career Assessments & Career Counseling
- Academic Engagement—Undergraduate Research & Faculty Contact
- SAM Center—Advising & Mentoring
- Second Year Survey
- McNair Scholars Program
- Email Blasts

Transfer Success

Challenges

- Social Connections
- New Community
- Number of Hours Transferring to SHSU
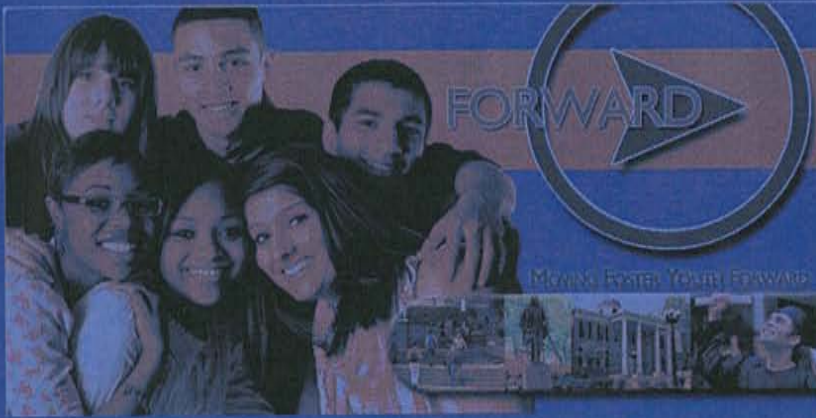- Academic Changes

SHSU Interventions

- Bearkat Transfer Scholarship
- Transfer Orientation & New Student Convocation
- Social Opportunities to Make Connections
- Articulation Agreements & Reverse Transfer Agreements
- Academic Engagement - Undergraduate Research & Faculty Contact
- SHSU Advising at Community Colleges
- Transfer Student Survey
- Email Blasts

Sophomore Data

- The average two-year retention rate for the past 4 years was 60%. (The average one-year retention rate was 71%.)
- In a past longitudinal study at SHSU (2002-2008), over 70% of those who did not return were in good academic standing..
- Of those who did not return to SHSU (2002-2008), 59% were females and 41% were males. 18% were Black, 67% were White, .5 % were American Indian, 13% were Hispanic, .8% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1.23% were International students.
- The top five schools that our sophomores transfer to are Lone Star College System, Texas State University-San Marcos, University of Houston, Houston Community College, and Texas A&M University (taken from beginning freshmen cohorts from Fall 2002-2005).
- There is no clear data at SHSU as to why they are leaving, but we are addressing the common issues found in national research.

Transfer Data

- Students who transfer in with at least a 2.7 GPA and 30 hours are more successful in terms of GPA and graduation.
- The top five community colleges that our students transfer to SHSU from are Lone Star College System, Blinn College, Houston Community College, Navarro College, and San Jacinto College (taken from THECB data from 2004-2007).
- An average of 1,254 community college students per year transferred to SHSU from 2004-2007.
- 18.3% of community college transfers come to SHSU core complete.
- 16.5% of community college transfers come to SHSU with an Associate's degree.
- 60.2% of community college transfers took developmental classes prior to transferring to SHSU.
- SHSU has about 500+ transfers per year from four-year institutions.

The FORWARD Project

Students who are or were a foster, orphan, or ward of the state may be eligible for extra resources and assistance for their college education.

THINKING FORWARD

Students need to make a plan to go to college early in their high school years.

PAYING FORWARD

There is money for students who were fosters, orphans, or wards of the state! Financial aid, scholarships, grants, and more are available to qualifying students.

MOVING FORWARD

SHSU can offer year-round on-campus housing and waivers on holiday break fees.

REACHING FORWARD

Students need to reach out for help, and there are many programs dedicated to supporting them.

WORKING FORWARD

If students need help finding a job now or in the future, Career Services is the place to visit. During college and after they graduate, Career Services will help them with on campus jobs, employment preparation, internships, job fairs, and more.

LIVING FORWARD

The Huntsville community has many resources for our Sam Houston State University students.

The Former Foster Youth Scholarship Fund has been established and can be contributed to through the SHSU Annual Fund Campaign.

Please go to www.shsu.edu/forward for more information on the FORWARD Project.

FORWARD Data (Fall, 2009)

SHSU Student Population 69	
Full-Time	76%
Part-Time	24%
Freshmen	51%
Sophomores	22%
Juniors	15%
Seniors	13%
Transferred into SHSU	25%
Work 6-12 Hrs/Wk	16%
Work 13-20 Hrs/Wk	38%
Work > 20 Hrs/Wk	13%
(40% work both on and off campus)	
Probation after F09	14%
Suspension after F09	14%

Foster Care by the Numbers
(Jan. 9, 2009—Casey Family Programs)

65% - Adults formerly in foster care who experience 7 or more school changes, K-12

74% - Adults formerly in foster care who completed high school (general population—86%)

70% - Youth emancipating from foster care who plan to attend college

37% - Adults formerly in foster care who actually attend college (general population—51%)

3-11% - Adults formerly in foster care who complete a bachelor's degree (general population—28%)

Predictions for 2020:

Children who will age out of the foster care system	300,000
Foster youth who age out of the system who graduate from college	9,000

How You Can Help Students Succeed

Use Engaging Pedagogies

- Early and continuing assignments requiring reflection and integration coupled with feedback
- Early-in-the-semester exam-giving with feedback
- Use of peers, one-minute papers, case studies, debates, simulations, small group work, and undergraduate research
- Use SHSU Professional and Academic Center for Excellence (PACE) for professional development
- Attend the PACE/CHSS Teaching Conference in August

Make the Classroom the Locus of Community Building

Ensure Programs are of High Quality

Cultivate a Campus Culture that Fosters Student Success

Get Involved with Students

- Advise a Student Organization
- Serve as a Mentor

Adapted from presentation by George Kuh - 2010 First-Year Experience Annual Conference.

The Professional and Academic Center for Excellence (PACE) provides a campus resource for learning and teaching to the university community. By creating, coordinating, and maintaining a variety of materials, programs, and activities, PACE promotes excellence by equipping faculty, administrators, staff, and students with tools designed to enhance their abilities to fulfill their respective roles.

Contact Dr. Marsha Harman at 294.2688 for upcoming presentations.

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Dr. Keri Rogers

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

Student Success Initiatives

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