

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

September 9, 2009

Members Present:

Chad Hargrave; Renee James; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Paul Loeffler; Brian Oetiker; Brian Loft; Bill Jasper; Mark Frank; Gerald Kohers; Rebecca Bustamante; Leonard Breen; Melinda Miller; Mack Hines; Donna Desforges; Tracy Steele; Deborah Hatton; Darci Hill; Erin Cassidy.

Members Absent:

Emmette Jackson; Hee-jong Joo; Sam Souryal; Donald Bumpass; Bill Brewer; Andrew Lopenzina.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Edmonson called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Awards Ceremony:

Senators completing their terms were recognized by Provost Payne, and the new senators were welcomed by Chairperson Edmonson.

- Out-going Senators: Bill Lutterschmidt; Yan Zhang; Mark Frank*; John Newbold; Bill Edgington; Debra Price; Tracy Steele*; Tamara Waggener; Tracy Bilsing; Ann Jerabek (* Re-elected for a subsequent three-year term)
- New Senators: Chad Hargrave; Renee James; Hee-jong Joo; Donald Bumpass; Rebecca Bustamante; Leonard Green; Mack Hines; Donna Desforges; Erin Cassidy
- Senate Administrator Awards were presented by Chairperson Edmonson. In her address, she explained that our “Friends of the Senate” awards recognize individuals in leadership positions who have been exceptionally supportive of the faculty and who have gone above and beyond in contributing to the academic life of the university.
 - The Departmental Chair Award was presented to Dr. Debra Andrist from the Department of Foreign Languages.
 - The award recognizing those in upper administration was presented to Provost David Payne.
- Greetings on behalf of the president were offered by Dr. Payne; Dr. Gaertner had been regrettably detained. Provost Payne relayed the administration’s appreciation for the harmonious and friendly relationship that has been maintained with the senate. He stressed the important and vital role of the senate on campus and his personal appreciation for our efforts. Following his remarks, Dr. Payne presented an award to Dr. Edmonson in recognition of her term in service as senate chair. Dr. Payne commented that she was a wonderful leader and a has been a pleasure to work with. He also congratulated her on her recent promotion to Acting-Chair within the College of Education.

Old Business:

Chairperson Edmonson provided a report on the status of various resolutions and recommendations made during the 2008-2009 senate year. A summary of this report is included as an attachment to the minutes.

New Business:**Passing of the Gavel**

The traditional gift exchange between the 2008-2009 Chairperson, Dr. Stacey Edmonson, and the 2009-2010 Chairperson, Dr. Paul Loeffler, marked the transition of the respective senates and the induction of the new senate chair.

Introduction of New and Old Senators

Special Guest: Dr. Debra Andrist, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages.

Dr. Andrist reviewed for the senators the role of foreign languages on campus and the many new efforts and activities. These include the introduction of new course offerings, such as ASL and Arabic, as well as efforts to provide outreach to our students, such as on-line German and Spanish, and “practice tables” manned by students as part of their service-learning course requirements. Her detailed handout is included as the second attachment to the minutes.

Election of Chair-Elect:

Dr. Mark Frank, from the Department of Economics and International Business, was unanimously elected as chair-elect for the 2009-2010 year, and as chair for the 2010-2011 year.

Committee Assignments:

Chairs for each committee were determined in short meetings. Academic Affairs – Renee James; Committee on Committees – Gerald Kohers; Faculty Affairs – Brian Loft; University Affairs – Melinda Miller.

Special Senate Election

Due to resignations and a sabbatical, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is underrepresented in the Faculty Senate. In accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the Faculty Senate Charter and Bylaws, a vacancy would ordinarily be “filled by the person receiving the next highest number of votes in the most recent spring election.” As no such person exists, a special election will be conducted to fill a two-year open position (term to expire in August 2011). The Committee on Committees agreed to send an announcement of the vacancy to all tenure/tenure track faculty in the college of H&SS, with a subsequent special election to follow.

Resignation of a Senator

Senator Souryal has been unable to attend senate meetings and senate-committee meetings. Discussions and proceedings considered the options offered in the Faculty Senate bylaws concerning vacancy due to resignation and vacancy due to removal. The resolution of the senate was to declare the seat vacant and affect the change as a vacancy due to removal if necessary. Subsequent communication with Chairperson Loeffler resulted in Senator Souryal requesting a vacancy due to resignation. In accordance with the senate by-laws, the position will be filled by the person receiving the next highest number of votes in the most recent spring election.

Senate Input:

- Several senators reported growing faculty concerns related to the limited availability of on-campus parking during peak-demand hours. The Faculty Affairs Committee agreed to consider complaints related to the shortage of available faculty and staff parking, as well as the cost of parking in the Parking Garage. The University Affairs Committee agreed to consider complaints regarding the traffic on Avenue I between the Lee Drain Building and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Avenue I between the Parking Garage and the Music Building.
- A general discussion ensued over the 2009 market adjustments. Concerns were raised over the lack of clarity in the criteria for allocation of these funds.
- Senator Murphy-Manley raised the issue of tuition support for children of faculty and staff who attend Sam Houston State University.
- After a general discussion, the Faculty Affairs Committee agreed to consider concerns over the transparency and administration of the Faculty Excellence Awards.
- Chairperson Loeffler raised concerns over the lack of involvement of the Faculty Senate in the review of policies put forth by the university.

Senate adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Loeffler, Chair
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect

Faculty Senate Annual Update, 2008-09

date	topic	status
Resolutions		
2/26/2009	eligibility for Faculty Excellence awards	passed
3/9/2009	concealed handgun resolution	passed
3/19/2009	Academic Calendar modification	passed
4/2/2009	removal of "Safe Zone" verbiage for campus (Haven)	passed
5/7/2009	signature required for course drops	in progress
Recommendations		
11/6/2008	development of faculty club	in progress
12/1/2008	2008 market/merit adjustment equity	evaluated & presented to CAD
2/26/2009	evaluation of academic transcripts (transfer hours)	examples requested from Senate
3/19/2009	establishment of university calendar task force	passed
3/19/2009	bookstore quality	response received
4/2/2009	evaluation of department chairs	in progress
4/23/2009	university commitment to service	in progress
5/7/2009	faculty credit/compensation for independent studies	under consideration
5/7/2009	addition of civic engagement to FES	passed, will go to APC

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES http://www.shsu.edu/~fol_www/

ORGANIZATION: independent department since 2007; now headquartered in ABIV 3rd Floor; approximately 14% growth per year since independence; one two-branch major Spanish and Spanish for Teaching; Minors in French, German, Middle Eastern Studies

LANGUAGES OFFERED: American Sign Language; Arabic; (Mandarin) Chinese; French; German; Japanese; Korean; Spanish; other languages through National Association for Self-Instructed Language Programs (NASILP), Portuguese planned spring 10

FACULTY: 1 ASL (now hiring second); 1 + 1 Fulbrighter in Arabic ; 1 exchange in Chinese; 2 in French; 2 in German; 1 in Japanese; (1 in Korean); 15 in Spanish

STUDY ABROAD: Puebla (Mexico) Field School and Toledo, Spain for Spanish; Berne, Switzerland for German; Qatar for Arabic

TEACHING & LEARNING INITIATIVES & PROPOSALS IN-HOUSE: Expanded language laboratory with intern-monitors; Informal practice sessions; Formalized tutoring; Expanded language laboratory with intern-monitors; on-line German, on-line Spanish; dual courses

MA in Spanish (on-line options, BAMA) ; BA in Foreign Languages (two minors); minor in ASL; minor in Pacific Rim

TEACHING & LEARNING INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVES & PROPOSALS (frequently with other departments and colleges and entities)

Frequent related cultural events: Grito de Dolores; Día de la Raza; Kaffeestunde; Day of the Dead bread and altars; French Week; Multilingual Christmas caroling; Carnival Samba demo; Cherry Blossom Festival; Holy Week processional rug; Brazil Day; specifically Latin American Latino cultural events: Spanish guitarist; January concert; Mexican food production and consumption and more

Frequent guest speakers (interdisciplinary and cultural) from on and off campus: Celtic Tiger; Ireland and Spain; Literal: Latin American Voices magazine; Viking Rune Stones; Mestizaje; Mexican Immigrant Women and Wages; Mexican/Mexican American Women and Power;

Languages for professional applications at the fourth-semester level and advanced: Spanish for Business, Spanish for Criminal Justice, Spanish for Health Professions, French for Business; certificates

Picasso Project

RECRUITMENT

Houston Hispanic Forum Career & Education Day, Latino Book & Family Festival; Houston Book Festival;

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: First Mondays Faculty Open Forum; Second Mondays Department Committees; Third Mondays Teaching presentations; Fourth Mondays Scholarship presentations and others