

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

Chair Marsha Harman called the Faculty Senate to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Bailey, Jim Carter, Steven Cuvelier, Peggy DeMers, James DeShaw, Mark Frank, Mary Gutermuth, Marsha Harman, David Henderson, Lady Jane Hickey, Joan Hudson, Joe Kirk, Gerald Kohers, Thomas Kordinak, Philip Morris, Valerie Muehsam, Gary Smith, Christopher White, Patricia Williams.

Members Absent: Christopher Baldwin (professional conflict), Stacey Edmondson (professional conflict), Deborah Hatton (professional conflict), Paul Loeffler (memorial service), Bill Lutterschmidt (professional conflict), Holly Miller (professional conflict), Debra Price (professional conflict).

Approval of Minutes:

Emendations for the minutes of September 16, 2004 were approved.

Chair Marsha Harman welcomed and introduced **Associate Dean and Director of the First Year Experience Dr. Kari Rogers** for the purpose of further acquainting Senators and the University Community with the “First Year Experience.”

Dr. Rogers reported to the Faculty Senate that the First Year Experience is a relatively new “learning community,” similar to some others already existing on campus (i.e. the Honors Program), that is intended to “give students the tools they need to be successful” and to assist in SHSU’s retention efforts. The Freshman learning Community does differ from some of the others in that FLC students do not live together. Among other activities, Dr. Rogers noted that the First Year Experience: addresses the effectiveness of new student orientations and the role of parents in a student’s freshman year; acquaints students with the various support mechanisms that are available on campus including the reading and writing centers, the counseling centers, the SAM Center, and the availability of tutors; and, offers nine sections of SAM 136, an “academically rigorous course” that offers new students an opportunity to address together the various challenges and opportunities they face in their first year and beyond.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs:

The Academic Affairs Committee has established subcommittees to gather information and address the change to a Two Track Faculty Classification System and to complete work on a revised Faculty Grievance policy.

Faculty Affairs:

There was no report from the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Chair Harman requested the Faculty Affairs Committee address the current status of promotion stipends.

University Affairs:

The University Affairs Committee is continuing to gather information and to address possible adjustments to the Faculty Sick Leave Policies and to address issues of separation of Church and State at University events and functions.

Chair's Report:

Faculty Senate Chair Marsha Harman presented the following reports to the Faculty Senate.

1. The recent IDEA training seminars to acquaint faculty with the new forms and mechanisms for student evaluations of faculty were well attended at every session.

2. Provost Payne has requested the Faculty Senate address the use of the New York Times on campus and whether the current subscription paid for by the University is getting sufficient use by Faculty and Students to justify continuing the subscription. A preliminary response by members of the Faculty Senate indicated that there are some departments and areas of the University without access to and perhaps knowledge of the availability of the NY Times while others indicated that the paper was available and being used on a regular basis. The Faculty Senate asked that information be gathered about the price being paid by the University and to gather further information about the use of the Times on campus.

3. Provost Payne has shared that the International component of the University is increasing and that there are a number of efforts in the pipeline to forge agreements for the interchange of both students and faculty, including opportunities in China, Mexico, and Italy.

4. The Faculty Senate is seeking information about how new enrollment numbers will impact various budgets.

5. The Administration is continuing to address fire and safety issues related to graduation and the recent over-crowding that has occurred at some of the ceremonies held in the Coliseum. Proposals exist for possibly having two or three graduation ceremonies and holding them on consecutive weekend days. Since graduation is such an important event in the life of the University, great care is being taken to address all of the costs and benefits of having multiple graduation ceremonies, as well as when, where and how. One of the issues is the problem of having highly visible and prestigious speakers at graduation and the effect that multiple graduations would have on the ability of the University to provide the graduates and their parents with a truly memorable day.

6. The Administration is continuing to gather information and create procedures for establishing the Two Track Faculty Classification system. To the best of anyone's knowledge, it appears that all "new" faculty members have a three course load and that perhaps in some areas and in some departments some other faculty members have been

converted to a three course research track. The Faculty Senate will continue to gather information about both the numbers of Faculty moving to the three course load and the procedures by which these changes are put into place.

7. Provost Payne has reported that revisions to the Faculty Developmental Leave Policy are under consideration with a primary concern being flexibility in awards and adequate procedures for making good decisions supportive of the faculty.

Committee on Committees:

The Faculty Senate then moved into an executive session to receive nominations from the Committee on Committees to the Student Organizations Board, the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award Committee, the Parking Appeals Committee, and the Research Council.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:35 p.m.