

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

September 16, 2021
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Remote via Zoom

Senators Present (29).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), Maria Botero (CHSS), Tim Brown (COE), , Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Mona Cockerham (COHS), Tamara Cook (COSET), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Soo-Yeon Hwang (NGL), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM) Sureni Mullegama (COM), Junkun Ma (COSET) , Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Mary Petrón (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Kyle Stutts (COSET), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM), Rebecca Wentworth (COE)

Senators Not Present (2).

Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ)

Called to Order.

3:30 PM, Remote via Zoom, by Chair of the Senate, Damon Hay.

Self-Introductions of Senators

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Sep 2, 2021, meeting were approved.

Report on Faculty Burnout

Dr. Aneika Simmons updated Faculty Senate on her research about burnout at Sam Houston State University, as part of her Faculty Administrative Fellowship with the Office of the Provost. She shared the result of a survey provided to faculty last semester and reminded us about the Building a Burnout Resistant Campus Day that will take place on Friday, November 12. Some sections of this event will be offered remotely.

Chair's Report

The Chair's report included an update of recent policies that have been reviewed by Faculty Senate and/or approved by the Administration. These policies include APS 810701, Instructional Overload Assignment Policy; APS 890303, Employment of Graduate Assistants; APS 910312, Academic Probation, Suspension, and Termination; and APS 860211, Requisition of Course

Instructional Materials. These policies have been charged to the different committees for evaluation. The advantages and disadvantages of the implementation of the *Bearkat Bundle* were discussed. The Chair reminded faculty Senate that a proposal for changes in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) contribution was approved at the last Senate meeting of Spring 2021 and was subsequently discussed by senate leadership with then Interim Provost Christopher Maynard. After a brief discussion it was decided that this proposal will be brought forward to Dr. Stephenson. Updates were provided regarding the *Ombuds Pilot Program* and the Faculty Senate Proposal on *Significant Life Events*. The Chair also shared the main topics discussed during the Chair and Chair-Elect meeting with the Provost, these topics included, academic policy review process, background of stalled revisions of academic polices pertaining to FES, tenure and promotion and post-tenure review, *Bearkat Bundle*, centralized scheduling, Senate budget, measurement of service time for faculty, and the Strategic Planning Committee. Regarding this last committee, it was shared that the Administration is interested in more Faculty Senate involvement in the process.

Senator Petron moved that the Senate make an open records request for the university's contracts with Barnes & Noble. The motion was adopted

Committee Chairs & Charges

The members of the Faculty Senate Committees elected a chair for each committee and a workload was assigned for each committee. The committee chairs are Debbi Hatton (Academic Affairs), Rebecca Wentworth (Committee on Committees & Surveys), Samuel Adu-Prah (Faculty Affairs), Xiaobo Wang (University Affairs), and Karen Sherrill (Shared Governance). Committees were charged with reviewing the following policies: APS 910312 (Academic Affairs), APS 930129 (Committee on Committees & Surveys), APS 810701 (Faculty Affairs), APS 890303 (University Affairs).

Senate/Faculty Communication

Some Departments are not being updated by Faculty Senate. A list of these departments will be sent to the Senators who belong to the same College with the aim of including these Departments in updates. The importance of updating all faculty was stressed.

Future Senate Meeting Schedule

There was a brief discussion whether it is desirable to reconsider different dates for Faculty Senate meetings. It was shared that the Thursday meeting day was specified in one of the surveys sent to faculty.

Announcements

Reminder of the *Conversation with Administrators* forum.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.