

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
February 25, 2021 (rescheduled from Feb. 18)  
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Remote via Zoom

**Senators Present (26).**

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Natalie Baker (CJ), Maria Botero (CHSS), Siham Bouamer (CHSS), Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Jamie Durán (COE), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Soo-Yeon Hwang (NGL), John Lane (CAM), Lee Miller (CHSS), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Carolyn Moore (CAM), Jan Taylor Morris (COBA), Benjamin Park (CHSS), Dwayne Pavelock (COSET), Mary Petró (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Susan Skidmore (COE).

**Senators Not Present (4).**

Mario Aschauer (CAM), Timothy Brown (COE), Kevin Lord (COM), Kyle Stutts (COSET).

**Special Guests.**

Dr. Drew Miller, Assistant VP for Student Affairs, and chair of the COVID workgroup.

**Called to Order.**

3:30 P.M., Remote via Zoom, by Chair Lee Miller.

**COVID Update – Dr. Drew Miller**

There is no update to the general COVID numbers due to the recent winter storm. However, the number of cases in the dorms is down. The university received notification on Friday that it will be receiving vaccine, and received the first batch yesterday and will receive more on a regular basis. The first vaccine clinic was run today. Administration of the vaccine is still constrained by state guidance, which is currently that only people in groups 1A and 1B are eligible to receive the vaccine. There is a waitlist of just over 200 who meet the criteria. Only a little over 250 had inquired about the waitlist. About a third of the waitlist consists of students, while the remaining two-thirds is faculty and staff. After saturation on campus with the 1B recipients is reached, the university will halt distribution until the state permits subsequent groups to receive it. The excess doses will be transferred to the county until the state makes changes to its vaccine administration guidance on which groups may receive the vaccine. Follow-up injections will be scheduled when it gets closer to the time for people to receive their second dose. The first three shipments of vaccine will be 100 doses per week, and followed by 200 per week after three weeks. The university is receiving the Moderna vaccine and will continue to go forward. The waiting list is still open. Call or email the SHC to get on it. The vaccine, along with other medications, are stored in freezers/refrigerators in the SHC and are backed up by (recently serviced) generators.

**Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of the February 4 meeting were approved.

**Chair's Report.**

The chair led a discussion of the Chair's Report.

The chair gave updates about recent meetings with the interim provost, and with the president. In the meeting with President White, the president expressed her views on written responses to senate recommendations. She is not inclined to give to such responses in writing and would instead prefer to work collaboratively. She reiterated her willingness to come to Faculty Senate at any time to discuss important matters. A senator noted that the Senate Charter and Bylaws state that the president is to respond in writing to senate recommendations. Many senators expressed unease and continued disappointment about there being no written record.

There was discussion about the communications director position in the provost's office. The person filling the position will look at where the gaps are in communication. Senators were invited to make recommendations to help identify such gaps. The entirety of summer 2020 was offered by one of the senators as an example of such a communication issue. Concern was expressed by one of the senators that this will create another layer to the communications between faculty and the provost.

There was also discussion about a Katsafe announcement stating that there would be no repercussions for missed exams/assignments due to the winter storm. Some faculty were unhappy about the announcement. However, one senator noted that some students were reporting that some faculty were still demanding tests, etc. during the week the university was closed, and was appreciative of the message.

Senators interested in serving on a committee, chaired by Somer Franklin, to review double majors were asked to contact the chair (of Faculty Senate).

The chair asked for volunteers to select a recipient for a Faculty Senate scholarship.

### **Report from the Academic Affairs standing committee**

Senator Morris, on behalf of the Academic Affairs committee, presented a draft of a proposed letter to President White regarding a plan for improving shared governance at SHSU. Discussion included topics such as the pace at which this is to move forward, establishing and clarifying the Senate's own view of what shared governance should look like first, why a working group should be proposed vs. a policy on shared governance, the enormity of the undertaking, permanence of a shared governance committee, shared governance being bigger than university committee representation, getting faculty to participate in committees, and making sure the Senate makes the most of this opportunity.

Senator Morris requested that suggestions or thoughts on this be sent to her (to be shared with the committee) by 5:00 P.M. Monday, March 1.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.