

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

April 7, 2022
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Remote via Zoom

Called to Order

3:30 p.m.

Senators Present (27)

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), María Botero (CHSS), Tim Brown (COE), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Tamara Cook (COSET), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Junkun Ma (COSET), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Sureni Mullegama (COM), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Mary Petró (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Steve Rapp (CHSS), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Kyle Stutts (COSET), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM), Rebecca Wentworth (COE).

Senators Not Present (4)

Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Mona Cockerham (COHS)

Called to Order

3:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- March 3, 2022, meeting minutes were approved.
- March 24, 2022, meeting minutes were approved.

Unfinished Business

Uncompensated overloads in CAM (and possibly other colleges). Members of faculty senate discussed compensation of teaching duties that go beyond classroom work for which students earn credit hours. A summer group was proposed to research the way these kinds of teaching duties are compensated in similar institutions and use this information to discuss this topic during the Fall semester. Those interested in working on this should contact Senator V. Lantz.

Senate Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs Committee. Senator Hatton (Chair of the AA committee) updated FS that members of this committee are still revising APS 871214 – Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty and APS 910312 - Academic Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, and Termination.
2. Committee on Committees & Surveys. Senator Wentworth (Chair of the CC committee) updated FS that this committee has received 320 responses to the

committee preference survey. Members of faculty senate provided feedback regarding the current draft of the faculty perception survey. The draft of the survey was approved with the following changes: add an option to opt out on declaring rank, remove Assistant Deans of the COE as part of the evaluation (as it was in the original draft), and correction of some minor typos.

3. Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Adu-Prah (Chair of the FA Committee) updated FS on the work done by the FA Committee regarding APS 860425 - Designation of Distinguished Professors. Members of FA request clarification on the following sections of the proposed policy: 1.04. The rationale behind the addition of this line is not clear, given that Distinguished Professor and TSUS Regents' Professor are two unrelated designations. Section 6.03 b. requires further clarification. Section 6.03 c. would benefit from the addition of examples of supporting data/documentation, this section also would benefit from clarification on the limit for the number of documents/pages uploaded as supporting documentation and whether these documents must be uploaded as an appendix. 6.03 e requires further clarification regarding the relevance of the type of additional supporting documentation requested in this section, in particular, given that section 6.03 c. already requests submission of supporting data. Finally, on section 6.04. would benefit from including additional information on whether the candidate be notified and how the decision would be communicated. These requests for clarification will be sent to the administration and sent back to the committee once a response has been received.
Members of the FA committee are also collecting feedback from faculty regarding the adoption of *Simple Syllabus* and will attend a demo of the software.
4. University Affairs Committee. Senator Wang (Chair of the UA Committee), on behalf of the UA committee, recommends that APS 930226 – College Readiness Shared Governance Committee be approved as it is. The motion passes
5. Senator Sherrill (Chair of the SG Committee) updated members of FS on the results of the questionnaire sent regarding the draft of the proposal for shared governance. Proposed to initiate conversation with administration.

Other Reports

Chair's Report

1. **Meeting with President White.** Senate Chair and Chair-Elect met with the President on March 22. Topics included the following.
 - President's thoughts/position on academic freedom, tenure considering Lt. Gov. statements.
 - Bearkat Bundle – Dr. White attended SGA meeting. After considering student and FS senate feedback, focusing on determining the effectiveness of this program for saving money to students and providing materials on time. Inquiry on data used to determine the per credit hour price.
 - SHSU Online – Changes to Turnitin, Blackboard Ultra rollout, improving communication strategies.

- Lack of 24/7 IT/SHSU Online support.
 - Commencement speakers.
 - Strategic Plan - Faculty Senate feedback.
2. **Meeting with Provost Stephenson.** Senate Chair and Chair-Elect met with the Provost on April 1. Topics included the following.
 - Resolution on academic freedom and tenure.
 - Update on Big 4 policies.
 - Update on schedule issues (issue we asked him about before).
 - Update on any plans to prepare for the HSI designation.
 3. **APS 210302 - Exclusion of Initial Core Mathematics Course.** A new policy is being proposed to provide a mechanism for undergraduate students to exclude their initial core mathematics course from their SHSU GPA in some cases. Given that some students do not successfully complete their first core mathematics course (often part of a degree plan for a major the student selected while still in high school), then subsequently change their academic major such that a different core mathematics course is required, this policy allows such students a fresh start at completing their core mathematics requirement. The Individuals/offices/groups involved in the development and/or initial review of the policy include Brian Loft, Melinda Holt, Somer Franklin, Financial Aid, Maria Busby, and the Council of Associate Academic Deans. The Academic Affairs Committee is charged with the review of this revision.
 4. **Academic Policies to be Rescinded.** The Division of Academic Affairs is recommending rescission of these policies as the content is found in other policies.
 - 041020 – Appointment of Clinical Faculty Members
 - 890228 – Use of Tobacco Products
 - 890301 – Employment of Non-Tenure Track Faculty
 - 911106 – Appointment of Visiting Scholars

No concerns were expressed about the proposed rescissions.
 5. **Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting.** The Faculty Senate Chair and Chair-Elect will be attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting on April 8 and 9 in Austin.
 6. **Modified Instructional Duties (MID) proposal.** Staff Senate sent a letter in support of this proposal, as a result members of CAD approved the proposal.
 7. **IMPACT Committee.** This committee will create a subcommittee to outline the workflow process for project review and the mission of this committee. The aim is to have representation from as many units as possible including FS.
 8. **Curriculum Approval.** AAC reviewed and approved all the changes to curriculum proposed in the document sent earlier in the week.

Next Meeting

April 21, 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

5:05 p.m.