

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

April 15, 2021

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Remote via Zoom

**Senators Present (25).**

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), Maria Botero (CHSS), Siham Bouamer (CHSS), Timothy Brown (COE), 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), Kevin Lord (COM), Lee Miller (CHSS), Carolyn Moore (CAM), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Benjamin Park (CHSS), Mary Petró (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Kyle Stutts (COSET).

**Senators Not Present (5).**

Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS), Jan Taylor Morris (COBA), Dwayne Pavelock (COSET), Debbie Price (COE), Susan Skidmore (COE).

**Called to Order.**

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

**Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved.

**Chair's Report.**

The Chair led a discussion of the Chair's report. This included a brief update from Senator Hay on the provost search and what to expect with the upcoming campus visits. Other topics discussed in the Chair's Report included the following. Tuition scholarships for spouses and dependents information is on the HR website now. The university has met the threshold to be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution, but this needs to be maintained for two years and some documentation submitted before the university receives the official status. The newly created Associate Director of Communications (for Academic Affairs) is Rebecca Broaddus. In the budget hearings there was a request to refund/reactivate the position of Associate Vice Provost which has remained unfilled due to budget cuts since it was vacated. The proposed revisions to the APS 860211 are not supposed to impact the purchasing of research related materials. Relatedly, faculty cannot tell students where to buy their books, but they can provide pricing and supplier information. It appears that President White is going to add several positions in her office, including a chief diversity officer, and an academically trained deputy of sorts to replace what was previously a chief of staff position. There was much discussion of the costs/benefits of adding more administrators when some departments cannot get a faculty line to bring down student-to-faculty ratios. The President's Cabinet will review the reorganization that took place last spring to see what is working and what is not.

**Unfinished Business.**

Senator Simmons reported that faculty/administrator hybrid positions workgroup has four members, but five would be better. if anyone else is interested, they can contact her.

Faculty have expressed a number of concerns with the proposed revision to APS 860211 (instructional materials policy revision) and with other textbook ordering procedures. The concerns include things such as not being able to make changes to textbooks after the deadline in special circumstances, academic freedom, reporting procedure for using faculty-written textbooks, not being able to use the P-card for books except at the university bookstore, the general monopoly given to the bookstore by the revised policy, that the Bearkat Bundle makes it more difficult to use cheaper older editions that are still readily available, that the policy appears written to accommodate the bookstore rather than as an academic policy. Senator Hay volunteered to draft a response to the revised policy based on feedback received.

The proposal for the creation of an ombudsperson was discussed. There were questions about record-keeping, what options an ombudsperson can provide, what the limits are in what they can provide, who would serve in this position, etc. More specifics are desired.

Senator Doleshal moved that the proposed Modified Instructional Duties policy be sent forward to the administration. The motion was seconded and approved.

Senator Sherrill presented a proposal to ask that the university fund from alternative local university sources, the 0.9% gap between the traditional TRS state contribution of 7.5% and the ORP contribution of 6.6%, so that ORP participants would receive an additional 0.9% university funded contribution. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **New Business.**

The Chair called for nominations for Chair-Elect for the 2021-2022 academic year and announced that Senator Botero had been nominated. At 5:00 there were no additional nominations. The election will be held on the May 6 meeting.

Senator Moore, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported that there were 412 participants in the Senate election, and reported who the new senators were in each college. Also reported was a mistake on the CHSS ballot, which erroneously asked for four selections instead of three.

After some discussion, one of the questions regarding COVID-19 on the upcoming Faculty Perception Survey was changed to “How would you rate the university’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic during the fall 2020/spring 2021 academic year?” Senator Moore will resend the draft of the survey to the senate for feedback, which is requested by Sunday evening.

### **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 P.M.