

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

October 1, 2020
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Remote via Zoom

Senators Present (26).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), 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), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Carolyn Moore (CAM), Jan Taylor Morris (COBA), Benjamin Park (CHSS), Mary Petró (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Susan Skidmore (COE).

Senators Not Present (5).

Natalie Baker (CJ), Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS), Marianne Moore (COHS), Dwayne Pavelock (COSET), Kyle Stutts (COSET).

Special Guests.

Dr. Drew Miller, Vice President of Student Affairs.

Called to Order.

3:31 PM, Remote via Zoom, by Chair Lee Miller.

COVID-19 Update by Dr. Drew Miller.

Dr. Drew Miller updated the Senate on the COVID-19 situation on campus and related matters. He cautiously suggested that we are moving in a more healthful direction. The rate of increase in total cases is slowing down. Saw no spike in cases after Labor Day as anticipated. Have seen increase in number of cases in the Health Center of students with COVID-like illnesses, but which are not COVID. This suggests students are not properly distancing. The number of available hospital beds is in a good state. Spread of the virus on campus is very traceable and containable at the moment. Working group is seeking ways to improve communication with everyone. Dr. Miller advertised the Candid COVID Talks by Dr. Candace Walkley.

A Q&A followed. Some of the concerns raised were as follows. Concern about not being permitted to ask for documentation for students to return to class was expressed, and that this lack of required documentation did not help people feel safe. Dr. Miller answered that sick students may not be able to get such documentation easily or at all. Similarly, for those in quarantine. It is not a HIPPA issue as many have heard. Additionally, tests given to former COVID-infected people can indicate the presence of the virus months later, even though they are not contagious. Another concern dealt with the students who came in with flu-like symptoms. If illnesses like flu or strep-throat are ruled out, then student is tested for COVID. A concern was raised that a student who said they were positive could just simply show back up to class early. Dr. Miller emphasized that they would have to stay out for 10 days and have been symptom-free for 24 hours first, and that it is acceptable for an instructor to ask the student if this is the case. A Senator asked about

the Walker County numbers going up and how campus is able to insulate itself from that. Dr Miller suggested that students were perhaps following guidelines out in the broader community and that people in Huntsville may be avoiding campus/students. Concern was raised about the quality of the COVID webpage and Dr. Miller agreed that it needed work. Another question led to the discussion that the local hospital is testing symptomatic and asymptomatic students on campus once a week. Finally, in response to a question, Dr. Miller indicated that hospitalizations are not tracked unless it is self-reported, since there is really no way to know unless they are self-reported.

Commented [GU1]: "...unless they are self-reported..."

Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the September 3 meeting were moved, seconded, and approved.

Chair's Report.

See attached document below.

Unfinished Business.

The format for Senate meetings was discussed. Discussion centered on how to conduct meetings remotely while still allowing guests, knowing who the guests are, and conducting votes anonymously and/or without producing a record of how each senator voted. Possibilities for including guests include requiring registration, authentication through Zoom, Google Forms to get meeting invite or link to video stream, etc. Voting formats discussed included Zoom Chat and a separate voting app, (e.g. Election Buddy) The Chair-Elect will investigate further possibilities for continuing discussion at next meeting.

The adoption of a parliamentary authority was discussed. The possible use of Robert's Rules of Order, or an abbreviated version of it, and the possibility of the Senate writing its own [were] included in the discussion. The Chair will investigate options ahead of the next meeting for further discussion.

Commented [GU2]: were

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Chair's Report
October 1, 2020

Updates

- Increased communication regarding COVID, meeting with COVID Czar, change to reporting
- Flu shots for faculty/staff
- Free COVID testing for students
- Meetings with Dr. Hernandez – Info on endowment distributions, PPE supplies, summer pay
- Meeting with Staff Council – Justin Ball – People & Pets (early November), time donation, significant life event policy
- Meeting with SGA scheduled
- SHSU Online Committee meeting?
- Monthly meeting with President White
- Bi-weekly meetings with Provost Eglsaer continue

Increased opportunities for input

- Academic Affairs Policies & Procedures – Chair of Senate Academic Affairs committee, Jan Taylor Morris
- Banner – Debbie Price
- Attendance tracking – Aneika Simmons
- Grades – Mary Petrón
- Workflow – see email - TBD
- Bearkat Bundle evaluation - TBD

Coffee with the Provost

- Watch for email from Julie Schwab to schedule

Reminders

- President's Town Hall on October 14th 2:00-3:30pm - zoom
- Next Senate meeting on October 15th 3:30-5:00pm - zoom