FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
November 30, 2023
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Peabody Library

Senators Present (23)
Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Tamara Cook (COSET), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Xiaoman Duan (COBA), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Diana Nabors (COE), Shyam Pandey (CHSS), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Todd Primm (COSET), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Rebecca Wentworth (COE) Darren Williams (COSET).

Guests
Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (6)
Diana Brown (COBA), Daphne Johnson (COE), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM).

Special Guests
Dr. Amy Salazar, Associate Vice Provost, Student Success, SHSU

Called to Order
3:30 p.m., by Chair, Samuel Adu-Prah.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes report for the November 16, 2023, meeting was approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee
The Academic Affairs committee reported on its review of *APS 210216 – Academic Policies,* noting that the policy had undergone very minor revisions, and recommended that the policy be approved as written. Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the policy.

Committee on Committees & Surveys
The Committee on Committees & Surveys reported on its review of *APS 940317 – Academic Fresh Start*, noting new language in section 1.02 stipulating applicants may only opt into the program during their semester of application or re-application. The committee recommended that the policy be approved as written. Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the policy.

Faculty Affairs Committee
The Faculty Affairs committee reported on its review of *APS 980204 – Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty,* noting several concerns and suggestions pertaining to wording in section 1.01(b); incorrect referencing of the FES review vs. PETF review in

section 1.02(d); open-ended timeframes granted in section 5.02(a); and the use of overlapping review event acronyms. Punctuation and formatting issues were also addressed for sections 1.02, 2.04, and 5.02. The FA committee recommended the policy be approved with inclusion of its suggested revisions. Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the policy with the FA committee's included suggestions.

University Affairs Committee
The University Affairs committee reported on its review of *APS 800521 – Academic Distinction,* noting concerns pertaining to a lack of clarification in 3.04 regarding the role of approval between the corresponding department chair and the Honors College dean. Following senate discussion, the UA committee recommended approving the policy, but with the suggestion that section 3.04 be revised for clarification, and to designate the course approval responsibility as being shared by both parties. Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the policy with the UA committee's suggestions.

Discussion with Special Guest, Dr. Amy Salazar, Associate Vice Provost, Student Success, SHSU

Dr. Salazar presented on the suite of learning loss resources that have been made available to SHSU students and faculty through various mediums. Dr. Salazar focused the presentation on the following four modules:

- Student Success Hub Website
  - Centralized Website for faculty to find resources to support students.
  - Accessed more than 4,000 times since August 2023.
- Workshop Series for Faculty
  - Faculty professional development on Learning Loss topics.
  - Fall 2023 attendance consisted of more than 100 faculty.
- Modules for Optional Course Adoption
  - Various auto-grade capable modules offered for blackboard integration.
  - Fall 2023 adoption consisted of more than 2,000 students.
- Majors Fair Event
  - Special events for departments to engage with students and highlight majors/minors.
  - Fall 2023 participation consisted of more than 860 students and 125 faculty.

Questions and comments from senate covered various topics pertaining to the presentation, including: optimal methods for connecting students with learning loss content; benefits to asynchronous structure; remote attendance options for faculty workshops; student mental health; areas of improvement in wellness check reporting protocols; anger management resources; and faculty mechanisms to address classroom safety concerns.

The senate thanked Dr. Salazar for attending and presenting on this topic.

New Business
The chair notified Faculty Senate that new subcommittee policy review assignments would be assigned prior to Faculty Senate's next scheduled meeting on February 8, 2024.

Chair's Report

1. Provost/President response on revising the structure of the President/Provost meetings with colleges.
2. Faculty Senate Handbook update. Comments from Dr. Anne Gaillard.
3. Uploading Faculty Information on Watermark.
4. IT Advisory meeting. Provost update.
5. November FS Newsletter posted.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.