

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

7 November 2019

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Smith Hutson Building, Room 300

Present: Yuan Zhao (COM); Stephen Rapp (CHSS); Maria Botero (CHSS); Benjamin Park (CHSS); Natalie Baker (COCJ); Bobby LaRue (COCJ); Jan Taylor Morris (COBA); Vlad Radoias (COBA); Daphne Johnson (COE); Mary Petró (COE); Susan Skidmore (COE); Kevin Randall (COHS); Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS); Marianne Moore (COHS); Brandy Doleshal (COSET); Dwayne Pavelock (COSET); Kyle Stutts (COSET); Damon Hay (COSET); Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET); Lee Miller (CHSS).

Absent: Michael Hanson (Library); Siham Bouamer (CHSS); Nick Lantz (CHSS); Donald Bumpass (COBA); Jaime Durán (COE); Nancy Stockall (COE); Debbi Hatton (CAM); Kevin Clifton (CAM); John Lane (CAM); Carolyn Moore (CAM).

Call to Order:

3:34 p.m.

Special Guests:

Erika Brown from COHS gave a presentation on the SHSU Food Pantry.

After providing a brief history of the food pantry, Erika provided current information (over 1,600 students served through 8-10 distributions each semester). 2017 survey found that 46% of students reported some level of food insecurity. Every other Wednesday distribution 12:00-6:00pm. Emergency food kits always available. The pantry is open to all students (proof of need is not required). November 18th move to old LDS building between Kat Post and Wesley Foundation. Grand opening of new space in January.

Steven Koether from COSET, Chair of AASCU's Assessing and Improving Political Learning and Engagement on Campus (AIPLEC), presented results from focus group and discussed next steps in the initiative.

What is AIPLEC? Assessing Political Learning and Engagement on Campus. Created a coalition of stakeholders (all diversities) and all groups (students/faculty/staff/administrators). Assessed political learning and engagement on campus, rated climate collectively based on what coalition members knew and/or could find out about campus climate.

Focus groups and interviews on political learning and engagement. Broader definition of political learning and engagement, representation and participation.

Handout – particularly second page bullets. Strengths and Challenges. Explained.

Several questions about how to interpret results and on methods. Discussion about disaggregating numbers to understand focus group diversity. Discussion of disconnect between themes from

national group and what the students actually talked about. So state/national politics just didn't come up, for example.

Discussion of unease about speaking about "political" topics. In the focus groups faculty asked for training about how to facilitate discussions. Students asked for more opportunities to learn how to discuss these topics.

Next steps:

Quasi member checks are ongoing. This process encourages reflection on voice, inclusion, transparency in our own areas, departments, etc. Invitation to contemplate our own power and privilege.

Use Adobe connect (or similar tools) because being physically present is often a real burden. This will allow more people to participate.

Next semester: deliberative dialogues on topics emerging from the campus climate survey.
– asks faculty help to recruit faculty participants.

Approval of Minutes:

LaRue moves to approve minutes; Pavelock seconds.

Minutes approved.

Chair's Report:

Old Business:

Teaching Innovation Grants announcement

Language in the TIG announcement has raised concerns. The announcement included the sentence: "This program will increase the practice of teaching as scholarship here at SHSU and is intended to transform the institutional culture so that teaching and learning is viewed as a scholarly activity, just like research." Damon Hay brought concerns from his department, and reported that full professors wrote a letter to Provost. The proposal for the QEP does not include any language like this announcement.

Discussion about our identity as a university. Are we a teaching or research university?

Discussion about policy review across colleges. Disconnect between statement of TIG and what our FTEs say and what is valued for P&T, FES, and merit.

Discussion of the announcement focused on the call for cultural shift that does not correspond to policies and has not been discussed or accepted. Consensus to reject the statement that teaching and research are the same thing.

Additional concerns voiced about PACE: Teaching conference excluded groups, particular approaches. Faculty need to have a voice.

Example: Diversity strand in the SHSU Teaching conference was not accepted. LGBTQ group and African American presenter were reportedly turned down.

Petrón moves that Dr. Brian Loft be invited to Senate to discuss TIG announcement (as a part of QEP) and PACE initiatives. Randall seconds. Motion carries.

Hay read the Provost's reply to the letter from the full professors in the Department of Math & Statistics.

Motion by Hay that the Senate request that the following language be removed from the announcement: *"This program will increase the practice of teaching as scholarship here at SHSU and is intended to transform the institutional culture so that teaching and learning is viewed as a scholarly activity, just like research."* Rapp seconds. Discussion. Motion carries.

College caucuses are encouraged to send names of senators with contact information to all faculty in their colleges. Include the link to Faculty Senate page that allows people to send comments and ask questions.

Faculty and Staff People and Pets Food Drive **November 14th** sign up – see email. Please participate.

Committee Reports:

Reminder that reports will be given at the November 21st meeting.

New Business:

President's mailbox (in response to roundtable). The mailbox is to receive input on the specific questions listed in the email. Suggestion that maybe full professors will submit suggestions.

Adjournment:

5:00 PM