

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

March 23, 2023
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Peabody Library

Senators Present (21).

Maria Botero (CHSS), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Tamara Cook (COSET), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Damon Hay (COSET), Nicolas Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Sureni Mullegama (COM), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Karin Perry (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET).

Senators Not Present (8).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS).

Guests

Adannaa Alexander, Ava Fujimoto-Strait, Volha Minich.

Call to Order

3:30 PM

Approval of Minutes

Sen. Audrey Murfin (CHSS) moved to request a minor revision to the minutes' section detailing University Affairs Committee's review and recommendation on academic policy APS 990407. Sen. Karen Sherrill (COBA) seconded the motion. The minutes of the March 9, 2023, meeting were approved with the proposed amendment.

Senate Committee Reports

University Affairs Committee

Sen. Audrey Murfin (Chair of UA Committee) presented the review of APS 920808 – *Misconduct in Academic Research and Scholarship* on behalf of the UA Committee. The committee noted various discrepancies, formatting issues, and structural concerns with the policy as written. The committee recommended rejecting the policy on grounds that the policy as written is unclear, difficult to interpret, and presents substantive concerns requiring further discussion upon being revised to enhance the policy's structure and clarity. Faculty Senate voted to reject the policy.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

Sen. Brandy Doleshal (Chair of CoC Committee) provided an update regarding the development status of the Faculty Perception Survey, which she estimated is close to completion. Members of

Seante discussed minor changes to ensure the survey's first paragraph is clear regarding how the data will be used.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Sen. Nicolas Lantz (Chair of FA Committee) presented the review of APS 840901– *Early Retirement Program for University Faculty* on behalf of the FA Committee. The FA Committee recommended that the policy be accepted as written; however, it was requested that the term “early retirement: be revised for clarity. Faculty Senate voted to approve the FA Committee’s recommendation.

Academic Affairs Committee

Sen. Tamara Cook (Chair of AA Committee) presented the review of *APS 100428 – Course Prerequisites* on behalf of the AA Committee. The committee recommended that the policy be accepted as written but requested clarification on the process as described in the policy. Faculty Senate voted to approve the AA Committee’s recommendation.

Shared Governance Committee

Sen. Karen Sherrill (Chair of Shared Governance Committee) provided an update on the SG Committee’s meeting with IT@Sam leadership regarding the feasibility of integrating a shared governance structure between university faculty and IT@Sam on matters associated with any efforts or projects deemed to be major in their projected impact to university operations. Under this proposed structure, faculty workgroups would be introduced at initial stages of any IT@Sam venture estimated to have a major impact, such as those associated with designing new system solutions, or making substantial revisions to preexisting systems. IT@Sam representatives were favorable to the proposal but needed to discuss the concept with other IT@Sam administrators before moving forward with additional planning.

New Business

Recommendation on Proposal for Inclusion of Non-TT Faculty on Faculty Senate

The NTT Faculty Proposal Committee presented its initial draft recommendation concerning a proposal to include NTT faculty on Faculty Senate. The session began with committee Chair, Sen. Damon Hay (COSET), providing an overview of the draft’s components before the floor was opened for discussion. Discussed topics included matters relating to NTT faculty representation ratios; projected revisions to senator apportionment; single-senator representation scenarios; applicability of Faculty Senate operations to NTT faculty; and NTT faculty service requirements. The committee agreed to provide additional time for feedback to be submitted and will meet for further deliberations on revisions to the recommendation before the committee’s next update to Faculty Senate.

Chair’s Report

1. Response from Academic Affairs
 - a. Feedback (02/23):

Academic Affairs has suspended the proposed pilot of midterm grades, and accepted FS suggestion of using grades uploaded to Blackboard instead and began working with SHSU Online regarding the Blackboard gradebook functionality enhancement requests involving grade computations and general ease of use.

Additionally, Academic Affairs has incorporated the suggestion for APS 30325 - *Graduating with Latin Honors*

b. Feedback (03/09):

Review of APS 910116 – *Off-Campus Instruction*

Academic Affairs confirmed that the definition for “Home Campus,” as provided within APS 021120 (*Off-Campus and Online Education*), is correct as per TSUS, THECB, and SACSCOC requirements. Academic Affairs has moved forward with the process to rescind APS 910116.

2. Annual People & Pets Donation Drive Event cancelled.
3. Updates on Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS)
 - a. Common themes from Faculty Senates around the State:
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 - b. Concerns about legislative bills
4. FS requested clarity on Watermark deadlines and reminders.
5. Update on Bearkat Bundle Workshop (SHSU Office of Internal Audit in partnership with Campus Products & Relationships; Sen. Nicolas Lantz and Sen. Maria Botero-Chair attended)
6. Election for Chair-Elect coming up.

Announcements

Sen. Jamie Duran (COE) has resigned from Faculty Senate.

Next Meeting

April 13, 2023, Austin Hall, 3:30 P.M

Adjournment:

5:06 PM