

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
September 8, 2022  
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Austin Hall

**Senators Present (24).**

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Maria Botero (CHSS), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Tamara Cook (COSET), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Jamie Duran (COE), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Nicolas Lantz (CHSS), LaPrairie Kimberly (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Sureni Mullegama (COM), Audry Murfin (CHSS), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET).

Guest.

Volha Minich (COSET)

**Senators Not Present (7).**

Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Debbie Price (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS).

**Special Guests.**

Dr. Alisa White, President SHSU and Dr. Michael T. Stephenson Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Called to Order.**

3:30 PM, by Outgoing Chair Damon Hay. Meeting turned over to current Chair of the Senate, Maria Botero.

Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson thanked the outgoing Senators and presented a recognition plaque to the outgoing Chair, Damon Hay (COSET) and certificates to the following Senators: Timothy Brown (COE), Mona Cockerham (COHS), Junkun Ma (COSET), Mary Petró (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Kyle Stutts (COSET).

Dr. White thanked Faculty Senate and acknowledged the importance of Senate to the University. She is looking forward to working with Faculty Senate this upcoming year. Dr. White thanked Damon Hay, the outgoing Chair of Faculty Senate, and recognized him as a great advocate for faculty and Faculty Senate. She also thanked the full Senate body for their work. Dr. Stephenson also thanked the outgoing Chair and the members of Faculty Senate for their leadership. Dr. Stephenson discussed enrollment numbers. He explained that together with the Chief Strategy Officer, their focus is on the development of the Strategic Plan; 1- Academic excellence of SHSU and 2- student success matrix. Dr. Stephenson reiterated the need to define promotion and tenure standards at department level.

**Discussion with special guests Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson.**

**Questions on enrollment and graduate education:** Dr. Stephenson explained enrollment status and several Senators contributed to the possible challenges for enrollments. Potential solutions were discussed. Dr White added that the university plans to build a hub to provide tools for graduate recruitment.

**Questions on tenure and promotion guidelines:** The current deadline for the T&P promotions guidelines was discussed. Dr. Stephenson argued that this deadline would allow the unit to be able to provide guidelines for January 1st.

**Questions on Faculty immigration issues:** Dr Stephenson promised to work on the issue. Dr Stephenson and Dr White explained that currently there is no University Attorney but there are plans to hire one in the near future.

**Concern about people withdrawing from positions at SHSU and faculty compensation to market value:** Dr Stephenson acknowledged issues with salaries and market value and mentioned that there is a plan in progress to address the issue.

**Concerning student evaluation online (IDEA concept) of poor participation of students:** Dr Stephenson stated that the evaluation can be improved by early recommendation on administering the IDEA and doing it in class. He pointed out that going back to paper is untenable. A Senator recommended an independent standing committee to investigate the evaluation process with the option of moving away from IDEA.

**Question on Moving to Monday, Wednesday; Tuesday, Thursday schedules:** Dr Stephenson mentioned the need for careful thought because of financial aid complexities, clinicals, labs, and scheduling. It came up that it has been implemented before about three years ago and changed to the current schedule.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 5, 2022, meeting were approved.

### **Self-Introductions of Senators**

Senators introduced themselves.

### **Faculty Senate Standing Committees.**

The Chair of Faculty Senate provided an overview of the existing standing committees and charged them to elect a chair. Each subcommittee elected a chair and was assigned a policy statement to review.

### **Working Groups**

A request was made for volunteers to be part of the following working groups:

- Working Group tasked with evaluating Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion of Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty
- Working Group tasked with an evaluation of policy that affects non-tenure track
- Working Group tasked with an evaluation of a proposal to include non-tenure track in Faculty Senate
- Working Group tasked with an evaluation of faculty workload
- Working group tasked with an evaluation of "Expiration of Course work/credit examination"
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**Unfinished Business.**

Chairs report.

**Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.