

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
October 25, 2007**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Tracy Bilsing; Doug Constance; Peggy DeMers; Jerry Dowling; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Emmette Jackson; Renee James; Ann Jerabek; Rosanne Keathley; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Bill Lutterschmidt; John Newbold; Brian Oetiker; Debra Price; Tracy Steele; Tamara Waggener.

**Members Absent:** Tom Cox; Bill Edgington; Debbi Hatton; Bill Jasper; Yan Zhang.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting were approved.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2007.

**Chair's Report:**

Chair Debra Price presented the following report to the Faculty Senate, based on the Academic Policy Council (APC) meeting from October 17, 2007.

1. There was much discussion regarding the 2010 calendar. The APC recognized that 16 weeks does not necessarily equal 45 hours of instruction. The academic Deans have supported the Faculty Senate's position, including the need for equity among classes that meet on M-days and T-days. A committee of Deans will be formed to look at calendar options.
2. The policy for planning and conducting courses using technology and distance education needs to be re-examined. The current policy mentions professional development requirements that are ambiguous. It also does not address how distance education courses fit into a faculty member's teaching load, and different colleges and departments are handling these courses in different ways (for example, in some colleges the courses count as overloads, sometimes for traditional overload pay, sometimes for headcount pay, and sometimes for the accumulation of hours towards release time). The policy does not address teaching load in any way. This issue was assigned to the Academic Affairs Committee for review.
3. Regarding Q-drops, Dr. Eglsaer requested more specific information than what the Faculty Senate forwarded in its October 11 recommendation, although the recommendation was well-received by the APC. The current form for Q-drops does not match the policy requiring signatures from two Deans (it only has a place for one signature). The APC will revisit this policy.

**New Business:**

- A. Chair Debbie Price, Chair-elect Stacey Edmonson, and Senator Tom Cox attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS) Meeting in Austin, October 19-20. Texas State University System (TSUS) Chancellor Matthews and Vice-chancellor Craycraft met with the TSUS senators the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>; he discussed the departure of Angelo State University from the TSUS, as well as his concern about rising tuition. At the TCFS meeting, a representative from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board explained that there are a number of approved exceptions to the limit on Q-drops. In essence, she said, the Coordinating Board has an informal "don't ask, don't tell" approach to this rule. In addition, the American Association of University Professors

reported at the meeting that the percentage of courses taught by tenured/tenure track professors continues to decline.

In response to this information, the Senate revisited its discussion on Q-drops and decided to put forth an opinion on the matter of whether the Q-drop date should be moved to the last day of class. The Faculty Affairs Committee will talk with the academic Deans before developing this opinion.

- B. Senator Mark Frank asked about the Faculty Developmental Leave Policy, including whether junior faculty should be eligible to apply and whether leave should include more opportunities than one semester at full pay or two semesters at half pay. The Faculty Affairs Committee will look at the current policy, look at policies from other universities, and report back to the Senate regarding the findings.
- C. The language in the current Promotion and Tenure Policy regarding procedures for early promotion and tenure is loose and vague; in fact, there are no specific procedures regarding early promotion and tenure specifically addressed. Chair Debbie Price will refer this issue to the University Standing Faculty Tenure Committee for review.
- D. The Faculty Senate By-laws were revised to include procedures for holding a special election to replace a Senator who resigns. Robert Bruce recently resigned his position as Senator, and because there were no runners-up from previous elections in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to replace him, the Senate had no procedures for filling his vacant position. Substantial changes to the By-laws included (a) including the Election Committee within the Committee on Committees, and (b) configuring the number of college representatives on the Senate each year based on an average number of all faculty according to FTE and head count. Recommendations for changes to the By-laws came from the Senate Executive Committee, and the Senate approved the new By-laws unanimously. Chair Debbie Price will take the new By-laws to the President for approval.
- E. Chair Debbie Price informed the Senate of IRS 409A, the deferred compensation rule. Enacted approximately four years ago, this rule has now been applied to public educators who receive their nine-month salary over a 12-month period. The University must have a policy in place by January 2008 regarding its application of this rule, and faculty will have to sign a binding statement regarding their intent to take compensation over nine or 12 months. The Payroll Office is looking at how to address this issue with minimal disruption.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Committee on Committees. A recommendation to fill a vacant position on the Centennial Scholarship Committee was approved.

Because of time constraints, committee reports not already presented were postponed until the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting. The following committee reports will be submitted to the Senate:

- Faculty Affairs.
- University Affairs.
- Academic Affairs.

Because the Academic Affairs Committee Report regarding Faculty Salary Adjustments is still open for discussion and has also received an official response from a Senator, the Senate will place this item as its first main agenda item at the next meeting. The recipient of the Centennial Scholarship will be introduced at the beginning of the meeting; discussion of this Committee Report will resume following the introduction.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacey Edmonson, Chair-elect