

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
February 28, 2008**

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

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

Members Absent: Tom Cox; Peggy DeMers; Tracy Steele; Yan Zhang.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 14, 2008 meeting were approved.

Next Meeting:

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008.

Guests:

Mark Adams, Associate Vice President for Information Services, spoke to the Senate regarding concerns with computer services. He discussed staffing issues, including the loss of most of the computer services staff and the change in associate vice presidents. Mr. Adams emphasized that Computer Services needs to be aware of what faculty need in order to meet professors' needs; if faculty are planning to use a certain program or software in their classes, Computer Services needs advance notice of that in order to provide appropriate support. Computer Services also plans to conduct a survey to help gauge the needs and to solicit feedback from faculty. Some Senators mentioned specific issues with campus email, including messages that are not delivered (but are in the sent file and do not bounce back as undelivered); Associate Vice President Adams noted that 12 new node clusters are being put in place to help with this problem. He emphasized that faculty need to notify Computer Services when they experience these problems and should complete a work order so that the problem can be corrected. It was noted by Senator Waggener that the staff in Computer Services was always professional and courteous when contacted by faculty. Senators encouraged Computer Services to poll department chairs and/or attend the Academic Affairs Council meeting in order to solicit their input as well. Furthermore, Senators noted that when the semester is busy, SamMenu and Blackboard do not always function reliably. Associate Vice President Adams noted that they were also working on this problem with new servers; the current hardware was not equipped for the kind of volume of users that occurs during registration and grade entry periods. Computer Services directors Nancy Sears, Jacob Chandler, and Grady Mangum also attended and answered questions specific to their areas.

Provost David Payne addressed the Senate in response to questions that had recently arisen regarding the need to cut course sections at the beginning of the se

used fund balance monies in recent years to help meet academic needs. We have now reached the point where we must raise the FSR back to 1:23. Deans have been instructed to offer the same number of available seats as last fall. This means that classes will have larger numbers of students, classes will not be allowed to be split, and some upper level courses may have to be offered less often (once a year rather than every semester). The University must move to a more fiscally conservative approach. The academic deans were made aware of this in November and were told then to cut their spring schedule as possible. In answer to questions regarding increased class sizes, the Provost noted that classes may not be taught in the building where a faculty member's office is located. More large classrooms are trying to be developed, and new software has been purchased that will help match class sizes to the size of the

Faculty Senate reports to the Provost. This was mentioned to Provost Payne, but a change is not expected. Chair Price also noted that the TCFS reported how academic freedom rests with the university, not with faculty. Another issue that came up at the TCFS meeting was the expected accountability movement for higher education, in which universities will be evaluated on data such as their completion rates, minority enrollments, and assessments of the core curriculum.

Old Business:

none

New Business:

none

Committee Reports:

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

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