

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
May 4, 2006**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Members Present: Doug Constance; Peggy DeMers; Jerry Dowling; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Mary Gutermuth; LadyJane Hickey; Joan Hudson; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Debra Price; Chris White; Jay Whatley; Patricia Williams.

Members Absent: David Bailey; Christopher Baldwin; Jerry Cook; Linda Cook; Steven Cuvelier; Jim DeShaw; Debbi Hatton; Rosanne Keathley.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the April 20, 2006 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report:

Faculty Senate Chair Debbie Price presented the following report to the Faculty Senate:

- There was no Academic Policy Council (APC) meeting on May 3, 2006.
- The 120 credit hour issue is again of concern. It does appear that the rule will be enforced and that consequently the University will need to find a way to comply. Currently, the University is considering dropping a Computer Science class and a Kinesiology class from the core. This would eliminate four hours. Individual departments would then need to consider ways to cut their totals to 120 hours or else justify why they should be greater than 120.
- Course fees continue to be an issue. The University will be audited concerning course fees. The Board may consider eliminating course fees and increase tuition.
- The Texas State System may, in the near future, consider the use of a P-16 model. In this model, councils are developed between school districts and universities that attempt to streamline the education process from preschool through college.

New Business:

The Senate discussed and then voted on the Senate Leadership Awards. The Awards will be presented in the fall.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Committee Reports:

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

- Committee on Committees. Committee on Committees Committee Chair Gerald Kohers gave a brief report about the Senate Election. The results of the election were discussed. Also, he reported on the vote for the Faculty Development Leave election and current response to the Faculty Survey. Given the low response rate, and the fact that a reminder

email didn't go through, the Survey deadline will be extended. Several Senators made favorable comments concerning the online election format.

- University Affairs. No report.
- Faculty Affairs. No report.
- Academic Affairs. The committee had worked on two issues.
 - Committee member Jay Whatley presented the committee's report on the Faculty Availability (Office Hour) Policy. After considerable revision, the Senate voted in favor of the recommendation. Senate Chair Debbie Price will forward the recommendation to the University's Faculty Handbook Committee.
 - Committee Chair Patricia Williams, assisted by Senator Whatley, reported on the committee's work on the issue of the service component of the FES. After considerable discussion and revision, the committee's recommendation was approved. Senate Chair Debbie Price will forward the recommendation to Provost Payne.

Senate Input:

Chair Debbie Price provided an opportunity for Senators to address any issue of interest that wasn't on the agenda. There was no input.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip W. Morris, Chair-Elect.