



**Faculty Senate Minutes
Sam Houston State University
May 6, 2004**

Members present: David Bailey, Chris Baldwin, James Carter, Steven Cuvelier, Mary Lynn DeShazo, Stacey Edmonson, Mark Frank, Mary Gutermuth, Marsha Harman, Lady Jane Hickey, Gerald Kohers, S. Thomas Kordinak, Paul Loeffler, Tamara Waggener, Debra Price, Gary Smith, Kandi Tayebi, Christopher White, Patricia Williams

Member absent: Deborah Hatton (professional conflict), David Henderson (professional conflict), Penny Hasekoester (professional conflict), Joe Kirk (professional conflict), Holly Miller (professional conflict), Valerie Muehsam (professional conflict), Tamara Waggener (illness)

Approval of Minutes

Emendations for the minutes of April 29th were approved.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs

Chair Loeffler

- Summarized his conversation with System's Attorney Fernando Gomez regarding post-tenure review.
- Requested suggestions for a questionnaire related to retention, mid-term grades, and feedback to students. [After a lengthy discussion, a majority of the Senate voted to consider a one-item questionnaire to ascertain what percentage of faculty in each college provide an assignment that is graded and returned to students before mid-term.]
- Provided a written resolution in response to the Texas Faculty Association Alert to faculty. [A majority of the Senate voted for the following response:

University Faculty Senate believes that it is important to respond to the May 3, 2004, TFA-Faculty Advisory. The TFA advisory misstates the facts and the statements of Faculty Senate.

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University Affairs

- Senator Carter presented preliminary recommendations regarding the teaching evaluation instrument to be adopted at SHSU. A final recommendation will be made at a specially called meeting on Thursday, May 13th.
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Committee on Committees

Senator Kohers distributed Faculty Senate Survey results by rank.

Chair's Report

Chair Tayebi provided information from the Budget Committee regarding next fiscal year's budget. Areas discussed included Optional Retirement Program contributions from the State, insurance effective first day of employment, travel funds, and cost-of-living salary increases.

Old Business

The Senate reviewed the following accomplishments throughout the past year.

Other accomplishments throughout the year:

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- J Hosted President Gaertner, Provost Payne, Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Mitch Muehsam, Interim Dean Terry Thibodeauz, Dr. David Burris, and various honor societies to speak on a variety of issues.
 - J Recommended against a faculty tribunal to resolve faculty-on-faculty grievances.
 - J Collaborated with Faculty Developmental Leave Committee to make recommendations regarding the policy.
 - J Expressed that departmental rankings were released on perceptions rather than empirical evidence.
 - J Recommended minor changes but supported an APC proposal to count remedial class grades in a student's grade point average.
 - J Appointed a Strategic Planning Committee for Research Support to advise the SHSU Research Council.
 - J Recommended that the antidiscrimination policy include sexual orientation as a protected class.
 - J Revised Faculty Senate Survey to gather data on faculty morale.
 - J Established leadership awards for Outstanding Chair and Outstanding Administrator