

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

May 5, 2022

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Remote via Zoom

**Senators Present (28)**

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), María Botero (CHSS), Tim Brown (COE), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Mona Cockerham (COHS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Nick

**APS 871214 – Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty.** Committee members recommend adopting the policy with the following changes:

3.01 a - Insert the word “Academic” to clarify which dean will hear the student appeal. We feel this will alleviate student confusion as to the chain of review. Additionally, it follows the procedural form’s structure of levels of appeal:

1. Instructor
2. Instructor’s Department Chair
3. Instructor’s Dean’s Office
4. The Provost’s Office

a, the procedure chain list “department chair, then the dean and eventually to the Provost and Academic Affairs of his or her designated representatives.” However, the term “dean” has not been clarified to indicate academic which may lead to student confusion.

3.02 - Change wording to “Students are guaranteed due process and may appeal the Provost’s decision by following the procedure provided in **Student Guidelines**.” The due process appeal is independent of the appeals process outlined in this policy.”

This change ensures accusations of academic dishonesty are reviewed by the chain of command in Academic Affairs, while retaining a student’s right to appeal disciplinary decisions through the Dean of Students office. Additionally, it follows the appeal structure established by the procedural form.

The Faculty Senate voted in favor of these recommendations.

**APS 910312 - Academic Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, and Termination**

Compliance with HB 1027 (public posting of course syllabi) is currently time-  
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After considering feedback from faculty, attending a demo session, and considering the cost involved in the purchase of the software, members of the FA committee recommend discontinuing all considerations by the university to purchase the Simple Syllabus software. The Faculty Senate voted (25 in favor, 1 opposed) in support of the committee's recommendation that the university does not pursue the adoption of Simple Syllabus. However, FS recognizes that there are some concerns with respect to accessibility and format of syllabi and would welcome the opportunity for collaboration in studying the issues with current syllabi and for putting together guidelines for syllabi design and deployment.

3. Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting
  - a. Round-up reports
  - b. Senate resolutions across the state / TCFS Resolution
  - c. **Legislative Interim Charges.** Texas Senate Higher Education Committee will be reviewing “**Faculty Tenure:** Review the history of and current statutes and policies of academic tenure in Texas public higher education institutions. Review tenure dismissal policies at higher education institutions in Texas and investigate state policies or proposals that have eliminated tenure. Examine the role of faculty senates in representing faculty interests to the institution administration. Make recommendations to revise current tenure policies, and provide boards of regents with additional authority to review and address issues with tenured faculty. In addition, make recommendations on establishing guidelines for the role and representation of faculty senates at higher education institutions in Texas.” (<https://www.tact.org/post/senate-priorities-released-today>)
  - d. Salaries/Merit
  - e. Many provost and president searches across the state
  - f. Some schools expressed concern regarding bookstore contracts (similar to Bearkat Bundle)
4. TSUS Council of Faculty Senates Meeting with TSUS office reps
  - a. Tenure and Academic Freedom concerns
  - b. Book bundles, First Day® Complete, OERs concerns
5. Safety concerns expressed by faculty.
6. Cost of living concerns & merit it will depend on enrollment.

### **New Business**

Members of FS voted on two candidates for the next Chair-Elect/Chair of Faculty Senate: Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET) and Zach Valdes (NGL). After listening to each candidate’s statement, members of FS voted via Qualtrics and elected Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET) to serve as Chair-Elect of Faculty Senate in the 2022-2023 academic year and as Chair in the 2023-2024 academic year.

### **Adjournment**

5:07 p.m.