

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

November 19, 2020

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Remote via Zoom

Senators Present (26).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), Maria Botero (CHSS), Timothy Brown (COE), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Jamie Durán (COE), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Soo-Yeon Hwang (NGL), John Lane (CAM), Lee Miller (CHSS), Carolyn Moore (CAM), Marianne Moore (COHS), Jan Taylor Morris (COBA), Dwayne Pavelock (COSET), Benjamin Park (CHSS), Mary Petró (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS) Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Susan Skidmore (COE).

Senators Not Present (5).

Siham Bouamer (CHSS), Kevin Lord (COM), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Debbie Price (COE),
Document

titled “Faculty Senate Recommendations for University Course Delivery Policies Post-Thanksgiving 2020 and Beyond” (See attachment). After discussion Senator Rapp moved that the document be approved by the Senate and forwarded to the President, the Provost, and the COVID Workgroup. The motion was adopted.

New Business.

On behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, Senator Adu-Prah presented the proposal “Scholarship for Faculty/Staff Spouse and Dependent Children.” (See attachment.) After discussion Senator Botero moved that the Senate forward this proposal to the administration with the phrase “under 26 years of age” struck from the proposal. The motion was adopted.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.

It is believed many universities will continue opening with a similar approach as the fall for many reasons. However, we acknowledge how to approach the upcoming academic year is a complicated and difficult decision.

Recommendation Given the following considerations: COVID-19 is currently on the rise, 2020 holiday celebrations are projected to contribute to a large increase in disease burden, and COVID-19 vaccinations will not be widely available until April, the Senate strongly recommends classes have the option to be offered online, if not moved to this format entirely. The course instructor should have the option to put the class online since this is already an option for students.

Summer/Fall 2021

Decisions about course delivery in Summer/Fall 2021 must responsibly center around whether or not an effective vaccination is available and taken by a significant proportion of the University population in addition to the burden of infections on the larger communities the University purports to serve. Therefore, the Senate provides the tentative recommendation*

Recommendation If a demonstrably effective vaccine is widely available to the general population and there is a downward trend of COVID-19 cases, then normal operations are recommended. If vaccinations are readily available in early April, we recommend that summer be online to have time to collect trend data, and assess the safety of in-person return.
