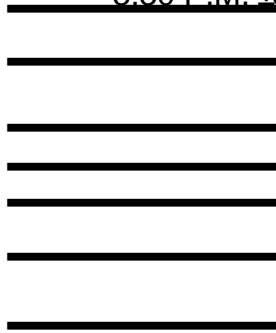


**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

December 3, 2020

3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.



-19, the upcoming Spring semester vaccines, and the difficulties faced by students and faculty this past Fall semester. A summary of the major points of some of these discussions follows.

Dr. Drew Miller began by giving an overview of where the university stands with respect to COVID-19. It is too early to evaluate the impact of the Thanksgiving holidays on the current infection levels. There is concern about the current condition of the state and nation and there is an increase regionally, but the hospital zone in which Huntsville is located is looking OK in terms of hospital beds (8 or 9% of capacity locally). The university was testing 400-500 people a day at the kiosk before Thanksgiving. The positivity rate has dropped to 2.9% of total. There were only two known cases in residence halls before break.

Planning for the start of the spring semester includes going down on what has worked this fall, plus more fine-tuning of current procedures. A brief multimedia COVID educational training tool is being developed that returning students may be required to complete. A self-assessment app will also be rolled out to help students make the right decision about coming to campus if they have symptoms or have been potentially exposed. Residence halls are being targeted through a campaign to encourage residents to get tested on a cyclical basis. Extra quarantine housing will be on standby for the first few weeks. There is no formal campuswide protocol for enforcing mask wearing. Faculty can say something to a student in the class or ask them to leave if not

complying Residents can be (and have been) removed from dorm for sufficiently many mask violations.

The university may serve as a vaccination site and may aid county in distributing vaccine depending on federal and state guidelines. The university will not pursue mandated testing of vaccines (legal concerns, compliance, resistance). Federal and state agencies will determine how the roll out will happen and that will determine if the university will distribute vaccine to all students, faculty, staff, and their families.

The Medical School testing site is only for med school students, not students at TWC. Those students can use the Curative site nearby in the Woodlands.

members on the committee as well as a representation. The committee will be led by co-chairs consisting of one cabinet member and one faculty member. The cabinet member will be Heather Thielman. There will be other members of the committee from other units. There will be opportunities for faculty and the campus community to participate/engage with the finalists publicly and transparently.

The Provost's title has been changed to Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the job description has been modified to reflect what Dr. White thinks the job should be.

Dr. Maynard reminded faculty that commencement will be at NRG Stadium. Faculty attendance is not required, but faculty are welcome to come. Interested faculty should RSVP with their college dean. Travel and parking expenses will be reimbursed.

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**Unfinished Business.**

A draft of Leave policy will be emailed out and an electronic vote will be held via email.

**Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of the November 19 meeting were approved.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.